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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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shopping yet?

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INSIDE

NATION



The daughter of a man pushed in front of a train said someone should have helped her dad.

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ASIA



A typhoon that hit the Philippines has killed almost 350 people with nearly 400 missing. ► PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE



Julie Andrews says that her four-octave voice is not coming back.

► PAGE 24

PAST THE EXPIRATION OF ORIGINAL CW PERMIT:



Members and guests of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter listen to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David Gulick, front standing, one of the resource speakers in yesterday's Employment Law Compliance Conference that SHRM hosted at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Foreign worker can't work until CW permit is renewed'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Transitional Commonwealth-only workers would have to stop working—but can remain in the CNMI—while their CW permit renewal application remains pending past the expiration date of their original permit, drawing reactions from both employers and employees yesterday. This is among the reasons why U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recommends that employers file renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the original permit's expiration.

See CW on Page 4

» SHRM: Early CW application should be heeded

Fitial, SDLLC ordered to appear in court

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) may have overcome another hurdle when the Superior Court granted yesterday her request ordering Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Saipan Development LLC to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failing to obey preliminary injunction orders on

the no-bid \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement.

» Ayuyu, Maratita willing to get past alleged threats

The court order to show cause comes at a time when Maratita, through her lawyer Ramon Quichocho, and Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), are trying to mend fences after Tuesday's alleged phone threats by the senator against the representative—also in connection with the 25-

See FITIAL on Page 4

Swimming robot reaches Australia

A self-controlled swimming robot has completed a journey from San Francisco to Australia.

The record-breaking 9,000 nautical mile (16,668km) trip took the PacX Wave Glider just over a year to achieve.

Liquid Robotics, the U.S. company behind the project, collected data about the Pacific Ocean's temperature, salinity and ecosystem from the drone.

The company said its success demonstrated that such technology could "survive the high seas."

» Robot named after Micronesian navigator



Papa Mau was the first of the firm's four marine robots to complete its journey.

The robot is called Papa Mau in honor of the late Micronesian navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug, who had a reputation for finding ways to navigate the

See ROBOT on Page 4

CHC, GMH team up to save man's life

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The recently created working relationship between the Guam Memorial Hospital and Commonwealth Health Center is starting to bear fruit after CHC successfully saved the life of a young adult involved in a recent crash.

Dr. Sherlene Osman, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. director for medical affairs, disclosed that a male patient who was involved in a recent vehicular accident was admitted at CHC a few days ago.

The victim, in his early 20s, suffered from epidural hem-

See CHC on Page 4

Hospital sees heavy traffic at children's clinic. PAGE 5
Victory for whale sharks at Pacific meeting. PAGE 6

Local

PSS cuts staff travel, limits student participation in competitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has cut down the travel of its officials and personnel and limited its expenditure for student competitions this school year primarily due to the meager budget approved for schools this fiscal year.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said that PSS has reduced by half its expenses on official travel of officials and representatives—both inter-island and off-island—to save on cost.

"Since last year, we cut our travels by 50 percent because

we do a lot of Webinars [online seminars] here. Unless we are asked on specific meetings, we usually just bring the consultants here than for us to travel. That way we can reduce our expenses and realize some savings that we can use to provide additional aid in our schools," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* prior to her trip to Washington, D.C. to lobby for Commonwealth schools.

Sablan also announced that starting this year, PSS would only shoulder the expenses of top student competitors in both regional and national competitions. Among these competitions are the spelling bee, mock trial, forensic leagues, and thes-

pian festival, among others. As an example, if there are 10 students from a certain school who participated in the Chamorro competition at the school-wide level, only the top winners—maybe the first to third placers—can obtain full travel assistance from PSS. The other winners who wish to join regional and national contests will be asked to pay for their own expenses for airfare, food, and accommodations.

"For the regional and national student competitions, we will pay only for the top competitors. This is another area where we really need to map out carefully because we lack the re-

sources. We don't have monies anymore," said Sablan.

She assured, though, that PSS will continue to send delegates to international events where public school students continue to shine and bring pride to the Commonwealth.

According to Sablan, the CNMI team that competed in the national "We the People" competition in Washington, D.C. actually used their own funds to compete last year.

According to Sablan, this fiscal year is going to be one of the most challenging years for public schools. However, she also looks at this challenge as an opportunity for the com-

munity to come together for schoolchildren.

PSS was only allocated over \$30 million budget this fiscal year, of which only \$1 million is appropriated for the operation of 19 campuses and Head Start centers. PSS failed to

restore and hire replacements for many teaching positions as a result of the meager appropriation from the government. The teachers' shortage had resulted in large class size ratios in many public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

OPA asked to audit Tinian FY'12 municipal finances

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz renewed last week his January 2010 request to the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct an audit of the Tinian municipality's finances, and offer suggestions on how to improve the island's financial recordkeeping system. His renewed request, however, seeks to focus on Tinian's fiscal year 2012 finances.

"I understand the repercussions of an audit, being that there will be discoveries and recommendations that will result. However, my administration is prepared to work its way through the critical review process in order to achieve the larger goal of being able to apply for federal grants," Dela Cruz told public auditor Michael Pai in a Dec. 3 letter.

Pai has yet to respond to media inquiry whether OPA will conduct the audit.

The Tinian mayor said his office's goal is for the audit results and accompanying improvement action items to "enable us to become a legally chartered

Hyatt lines up holiday treats

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Holiday festivities will be in full swing at Hyatt Regency Saipan with the premier international brand name bringing together an array of activities for the community to enjoy.

Hyatt Regency Saipan launched its yuletide celebration at the lobby at the beginning of the month when they hosted the traditional lighting ceremony of a towering Christmas tree decked in red and gold.

On Dec. 10, the aroma of the gingerbread house by the entrance to DJ's Corner will waft through the air, enticing customers to try any of the stores pastry delights or to purchase gift ideas for their loved ones.

Yuletide observance will not be complete without hearing the most celebrated Christmas carols, and Hyatt will have their guests serenaded starting Dec. 22.

For the youngsters and young at hearts, Santa Claus will make an effort to visit the island all the way from the North Pole from Dec. 22 to Dec. 24. Children will have the chance to sit on Santa's

municipality."

Dela Cruz said Tinian is looking at applying for a grant that is due in April 2013 "so we would like to have this done within the next month or so."

On Jan. 20, 2010, when Dela Cruz first came into office, he requested OPA to conduct an internal control and compliance audit "as soon as possible on the Tinian Municipal Treasury to ensure that proper accounting, procurement, and internal controls were followed in the procurement of goods and services during the previous administration."

Almost three years later, Tinian has yet to see such an audit. The mayor revived his audit request to OPA, but this time focusing on fiscal year 2012.

"I would like to renew this request as we would like to improve our financial management system in hopes of successfully applying for federal grants. In addition, since the [OPA] has been receiving funds from our various local agencies for the purpose of performing audits, your office is likely now in a better position to conduct such an audit," Dela Cruz told Pai.

Hyatt lines up holiday treats

lap and have their photos taken with Hyatt's enchanted Christmas castle as a backdrop.

Families wondering what to have for their Christmas banquet can have an exquisite holiday feast from the Hyatt available from Dec. 22 until Christmas Day. Club at the Hyatt members get a special 15-percent discount on their holiday takeout.

Hyatt Regency Saipan also has a an array of celebratory Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings at their restaurants: Giovanni's, Teppanyaki, Miyako, and Kili Café and Terrace.

To welcome the New Year, Hyatt Regency Saipan will be transformed into vintage Hollywood, with the sophisticated and glamorous scene straight from the silver screen. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day feasts will also be available.

Beginning 10:30am on Jan. 1, 2013, Hyatt Regency Saipan will perform the Japanese sake-breaking ceremony called Kagami-wari to wish for 365 days of prosperity and success.

For reservations or more information, visit Hyatt Regency Saipan or call 234-1234.

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'Lack of interest doomed Library Friends'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While there was grief and regret over the recent disbandment of Library Friends, no one was willing to start a new organization that would help serve the needs of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Maureen Sebangiol, the last president of the decade-old group, noted that Hedwig Hofsneider of the Northern Marianas College did express an interest in putting together a new group composed of college students and friends.

"But he was not able to bring the involvement thus far during the past 18 months that we have been really putting our need and message out into the community," said Sebangiol. "I sincerely hope that he or another like-minded person will be able to garner enough support to create their own organization."

Sebangiol has been involved with Library Friends even before its incorporation in 2002, serving as one of three board members, along with four elected officers and eight other members.

A couple of years since it

was formed, Library Friends received from the Administration for Native Americans a grant that funded the construction of the Children of Our Homeland Cultural Center and Library within the CNMI's state library.

Since then, Library Friends had been conducting fundraising activities such as book sales to help the public library purchase new materials for its collections.

Sebangiol, who served as president for many years, said that other officers of Library Friends have left the island, leaving the group without enough active members and unable to meet the ideals that founding members agreed to 10 years ago.

"To fully serve the library in the best capacity, it is necessary to have an active, ongoing membership to elect officers and board members so that grants and funding opportunities could be pursued," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Sebangiol added, "I am saddened not to have been able to sustain the organization but remain hopeful that this opening will allow others to serve in a similar manner."

She gave credit to the library staff, saying that she would not have been able to sustain Library Friends as long as she had without them. "The staff of our library are among the best and most caring people on this island. They are a true asset for the community."

Library Friends held its final activity, a fundraising book sale, last Dec. 1. The event raised over \$200 worth of net profit.

"The library is currently in the planning stages for their 20th anniversary celebration. They will continue to need support and involvement," she reminded the public.

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UFO spearheads fund drive for PH typhoon relief efforts

The United Filipino Organization is spearheading a fund drive that would collect donations in aid of the victims of Supertyphoon Pablo that ravaged the southern part of the Philippines, killing more than 350 people. Hundreds more remain missing.

Bong Malasarte, UFO president, said the network of some 20 Filipino groups in the CNMI has agreed to be at the forefront of the weeklong fund

drive set to begin on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 6:30am to 11am at the Sabalu Farmers Market in Susupe.

Another UFO booth will also be set up at the flea market at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds on the same day in hopes of bringing together more funds to help victims and survivors of the strongest typhoon to hit the country.

Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune* that

officers and members of UFO were saddened with the aftermath of Pablo, which flattened large tracts of the Mindanao region a few weeks before Christmas.

He said the fund drive is only a small way to help those who lost their houses, livelihoods, and even loved ones.

He said that besides the Sabalu Market and the Saturday flea mar-

ket at the former Nauru Building, UFO eyes setting up a fund drive tent at other public markets on island, including the Tuesday Market and the Garapan Street Market next Thursday.

The fund drive will wrap up during the *Paskong Pinoy* event next Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

All funds collected will be endorsed to the Philippine Red Cross, which has maintained a strong relationship with UFO after the latter's

previous fundraising efforts for other calamity victims in the Philippines, the country of origin for majority of foreign workers in the CNMI.

"We appeal to all our *kababayans* to support this fund drive to help the victims and survivors of typhoon Pablo. Any amount of donation is appreciated. Let us all come together and show our spirit of giving this holiday season, especially to those who need it most," added Malasarte. (Clarissa V. David)

ROBOT

From Page 1

seas without using traditional equipment.

"During Papa Mau's journey, [it] weathered gale-force storms, fended

off sharks, spent more than 365 days at sea, skirted around the Great Barrier Reef, and finally battled and surfed the east Australian current to reach his final destination in Hervey Bay, near Bundaberg, Queensland," the company said in a statement.

Some of the data it gathered about the

abundance of phytoplankton—plant-like organisms that convert carbon dioxide into oxygen and provide food for other sea life—could already be monitored by satellite. However, the company suggested that its equipment offered more detail, providing a useful tool for climate model scientists. (BBC)

ordered to appear before the court on Dec. 28 at 2pm in Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman's courtroom "to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failing to obey the court's preliminary injunction and supplemental preliminary injunction orders."

Maratita, along with Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) and the full Senate, filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against Fitial, SDLLC, and others over the \$190.8-million power deal.

However, when Maratita found out that Ayuyu and two other senators recently met with SDLLC representatives or associates, she filed on Monday a motion for order to show cause, saying that Fitial and SDLLC should be held in contempt and fined up to \$10,000 daily for allegedly violating a temporary restraining order prohibiting them from pursuing and/or performing on the sole-source PPA.

Maratita also asked Ayuyu through a letter on Monday to stop meeting with SDLLC officials so as not to compromise their legal position in the case.

On Tuesday afternoon, Ayuyu called

Quichocho to ask whether there was a TRO on the senator to prevent him from meeting with any SDLLC officials. That was when Ayuyu allegedly made threats against Quichocho's client, Maratita.

Ayuyu said that Maratita has been harming his reputation since he, as chairman of the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, was only trying to hear what SDLLC has to say about the PPA but it doesn't mean he has changed course on the issue.

"I apologize if somebody's hurt but I believe they should also feel my side, being treated as a corrupted senator by receiving emails from people and I don't deserve that because I will never be a corrupted individual," he said.

The senator said he will continue to work closely with Maratita and other lawmakers on the PPA.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he hopes that Maratita and Ayuyu will be able to work things out.

"To me it's bordering on childish conversation. I hope they work things out," said Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI.

CHC

From Page 1

toma, a type of a traumatic brain injury where a buildup of blood occurs between the tough outer membrane and the skull.

Despite efforts of CHC's general surgeon to evacuate the blood that was gathering inside the patient's brain, the operation was unsuccessful. At about 10am Wednesday, Osman was notified of the patient's critical condition and she immediately acted to save the patient.

It was learned that an emergency medical evacuation to Guam was initially planned for the patient, in coordination with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. Upon learning, however, that no bed was available at the Guam hospital, Osman directly communicated with GMH director for medical affairs, Dr. Larry Lizama, to seek his help.

At 6pm Wednesday, GMH's neurosurgeon Dr. Steven Hayashida was sent to operate on the patient at CHC. Yesterday, the then-deteriorating patient was pronounced medically stable.

From arranging for the patient's emergency medical evacuation, to talking with GMH DMA, to sending the Guam specialist to the CNMI, these all happened in a record amount of time, according to Osman.

Osman, along with CEO Juan N. Babauta and COO Esther Muña, praised yesterday the cooperation of

hospital staff and the assistance of the Guam Memorial Hospital and Hayashida who flew to the island despite his hectic schedule in Guam. Also recognized were the efforts of Dr. George Macris, CHC's consulting internist, in getting the cooperation of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard.

"This is just an example of how hospitals should be coordinated," said Osman.

According to Babauta, had Osman not acted quickly as she did, they may be telling a different story about the patient yesterday.

It was in October this year when Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, along with the GMH director for medical affairs, Dr. Larry Lizama, met corporation officials and discussed setting up a new relationship between two facilities. Sharing of resources and expertise were discussed so they could help each other's needs.

Babauta revealed that as a result of this discussion, CHC was recently able to share its ultrasound technician with GMH. He explained that by sharing resources and expertise, each hospital agreed to shoulder the airfare and salary of specialists such as Hayashida.

CHC has no neurosurgeon but employs a full-time general surgeon for the hospital.

Osman admitted that hiring a neurosurgeon is not a priority for CHC at this time because the CNMI does not have a need for a resident neurosurgeon and can share this expertise with Guam.

FITAL

From Page 1

year power purchase deal.

Maratita and Quichocho filed a police report against Ayuyu after the senator allegedly made phone threats to kill Maratita. Ayuyu said he made no such threats, while Quichocho said yesterday that they stand by their statement to the police.

"What happened two days ago was unfortunate. However, we are all ready to move past that and continue to focus on preventing the defendants in the lawsuit from committing the biggest attempted contractual thievery that ever happened against the good people of the CNMI," Quichocho told *Saipan Tribune*.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, however, wants Ayuyu's pre-trial release revoked because of the complaint of disturbing the peace against him. Ayuyu was indicted earlier for conspiracy to smuggle federally protected fruit bats into Saipan.

Meanwhile, Fitial and SDLLC are

ordered to appear before the court on Dec. 28 at 2pm in Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman's courtroom "to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failing to obey the court's preliminary injunction and supplemental preliminary injunction orders."

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CW

From Page 1

USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick said that, without a valid permit past the original CW permit expiration date, the alien worker "no longer has employment authorization."

Gulick was among the resource speakers in yesterday's Employment Law Compliance Conference of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter.

The renewal of CW permits was a key topic, drawing questions and requests for clarification from SHRM members and guests gathered at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday.

USCIS Application Service Center will do its best to process CW permit renewals faster than the initial processing of CW permits.

"Hopefully, we can process the extension request because we hope that they will be well documented after the first filing and the reasons why we didn't approve the first one immediately will be overcome...will be taken care of," Gulick later said in an interview.

If the employer files the renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the original permit but USCIS has not been able to make a decision on the renewal application past the expiration date, then the employee still needs to stop working to comply with the rules and law.

Gulick said it could be an opportuni-

ty for the employer to allow the worker to go on vacation while the renewal application is pending.

Otherwise, these foreign workers can remain in the CNMI without penalty while waiting for a USCIS decision on their CW permit renewal application.

"All I can say is that there is no authority in the regulations for that person...to continue working," he said.

He said the penalty is similar to those employing unauthorized aliens.

Gulick said there are good reasons for implementing the regulations strictly.

"One, because of the cap," he said, referring to the 15,000 cap on CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2013, down from 22,416 in 2012. "Plus you have the question of qualified U.S. workers."

Debra Camacho, president of SHRM-NMI Chapter, said in a separate interview that employers need to heed Gulick's recommendation about early filing of CW permit renewal application.

"I don't believe that during our previous discussion about CW, that that was a condition that you need to apply [at least] 90 days [prior to expiration] and if in that 90 days they don't get it they can't work, they got to go on vacation. So I think this is something new, something now very important that I believe employers are now going to rush and do their [job vacancy] announcement," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said this is a cause for concern because in the initial processing of CW permit applications, employers had to wait for several months before

receiving a grant of approval on the application.

"So how long can we afford to have our employees on vacation?" she said. "They're not forced to leave the CNMI but our business that relies on them to do the job will now be hampered. Now, can a business afford a three-month delay in [renewal] processing... Maybe Mr. Gulick would say it's an easier transition. I guess we just have to wait and see on that one, right?"

Camacho said she's glad that this was clarified during the SHRM annual conference.

"I recommend that employers now look into their staffing and start doing their announcement because again, according to Mr. Gulick, you cannot use your old announcement. Now you have to do it again, before you turn in a renewal," she added.

In applying for the CW-1 renewal, employers need to submit a filled out Form I-129CW, petition for CNMI-only nonimmigrant transitional worker, which has a fee of \$325, and CNMI education funding fee of \$150. These two separate checks should be payable to the "Department of Homeland Security." Employers should "not" include biometrics fee when applying for renewal.

Each petition should include: an attestation for each worker; evidence to support employer's attestation that he has tried to hire a U.S. worker for the position; copies of recent pay statements or W-2s to show that the worker has been employed and is being compensated at the salary represented in

the filing; and documentation to show that the employer is still doing business such as tax returns.

The employer's attestation should be a "new" advertisement for the job, not the original one. Employers are reminded time and again to hire available and qualified U.S. workers.

More information is available at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or www.uscis.gov/cw.

The law requires CNMI employers to hire U.S. workers and only after not finding one after making good faith effort can these employers petition to hire foreign workers under the transitional CW program.

Employers found to be turning away qualified U.S. workers could be subjected to a higher standard of proof when they file their next CW petition.

"We would also look into whether or not we can revoke their current petition, if there is one. Or if it comes in before we make any adjudication, we might do the same thing. We might have them prove to us that there were no qualified U.S. workers," Gulick said.

Just like in his Saipan Chamber of Commerce presentation on Wednesday, Gulick explained to SHRM members and guests how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security arrived at a 15,000 cap on CW-1 workers for fiscal year 2013.

In fiscal 2012, the cap was 22,416 but DHS received only 12,247 filings to date, or 11,927, taking into account 320 denials. DHS rounded this to the nearest thousand, which is 12,000.

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said the department added an additional 25 percent to the 12,000 "to accommodate possible economic growth that might lead to a need for additional CW workers, for a total of 15,000."

Tourism arrivals to the CNMI have improved and the growth is expected to continue next year.

The transitional CW program will expire on Dec. 31, 2014, unless extended by the U.S. Labor Secretary.

The law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control requires an annual reduction in the number of CW-1 workers until it reaches "zero" by the end of the transition period.

CNMI government officials and employers have been asking for an extension of the transition period, so that the CNMI will still have access to foreign workers to supplement the available U.S. workforce in the mainly tourism-based economy.

Other resource speakers at the SHRM conference yesterday included Frank Gibson, who gave an update on the Workforce Readiness Initiative; U.S. Department of Labor's Patrick Candoleta, who presented on the Fair Labor Standards Act; CNMI Department of Labor's Alfred Pangilinan, who presented on local labor hiring requirements; and attorney Bruce Mailman, with a presentation on available and underutilized U.S. visa possibilities in a federalized immigration and labor scenario. Incoming SHRM-NMI Chapter president Malou Ernest gave the summary and closing remarks.

Hospital sees heavy traffic at children's clinic

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A 33-year-old mother expressed frustration and disappointment yesterday with the situation at the Commonwealth Health Center Children's Clinic after she ended up paying for her children's medication and treatment due to the lack of pediatricians to see her sick kids.

The Dandan resident first brought her two children to the

hospital's emergency room in October this year, only to be advised that she has to wait for eight hours because no doctor was immediately available to attend to her kids. The children, a 2-year-old boy and 5-year-old girl, had been suffering from severe cough for days.

The mother told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, as early 8am the next morning, they trooped to the Children's Clinic, only to be told again that they

have to return in the afternoon to see if there is a doctor available to treat her kids.

Fearing for her kids' conditions, the mother decided to take her children to a private clinic so they would be treated, even if it meant paying for medications out of pocket.

"It was a very stressful and traumatic experience for me and my kids because we were made to wait several times to see a doctor. Since I cannot risk the health of my children, I decided to go to the private clinic and seek immediate treatment even if it means paying \$99 from my pocket," said the mother, de-

scribing as "useless" the Medicaid benefit due her children.

Most private clinics have stopped receiving Medicaid patients—unless they pay for the cost themselves—due to outstanding arrears of the Medicaid program.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta admitted yesterday that there is "heavy traffic" of clients in the children's clinic in days when it is open. He agreed that there is a shortage of pediatricians at the hospital and that the corporation is in the process of recruiting more specialists.

CHC, it was learned, only has three pediatricians right now.

Babauta said that CHC needs three more. Because of this lack of specialists at the clinic, services are only open on certain days in a week. After 5pm each day, all patients are accommodated at the emergency unit of the hospital.

"Because of the limited number of pediatricians onboard our hospital, we asked some private clinics to open their pediatrician services to Medicaid clients starting this month to fill the void [at the children's clinic]. We already coordinated this effort with the CNMI Medicaid Office, which approved our recommendation," said Babauta.

Saipan Tribune learned that Marianas Medical Center and Saipan Health Clinic were asked to cover the needed ser-

vices for children. Both clinics confirmed, however, that no new payments for the arrears have been made by the government.

MMC manager Joy Sanchez said yesterday that the center opened its pediatrician services since Dec. 1 upon signing a contract with insurance companies and the Medicaid Office. However, she pointed out that the "opening" is only temporary and limited to pediatrician services. For other services, Medicaid clients have to self-pay to be accommodated.

At the Saipan Health Clinic, similar pediatrician services were made available starting yesterday, Dec. 6. For other services, the suspension remains in effect.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Monday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012, at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolian Room starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting guest speaker will be Eric Plinske, regional manager, Staywell Insurance. His presentation will feature detailed information on "U.S. reform update and how will it impact the CNMI." To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

CK Head Start parents meeting set

Head Start CK parents meeting on Monday, Dec. 10, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the WSR Cafeteria. Contact Ray for more information or concerns at 234-7291 or visit the Facebook page at Headstart Chalan Kanoa Saipan. (PR)

Tinian Municipal Scholarship

applications open

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship board would like to inform the general public that the 2013 spring semester, academic year 2012-2013 application is now available. Visit our office on the first floor of Villagomez Building, Tinian Mayor's Office. Applications will be provided upon request via tinianscholarship@gmail.com, or you may pick up a copy at the mayor's office reception desk. Applications and requirements must be submitted on or before Dec. 31, 2012. For more information, contact Ann Marie H. Crisostomo at (670) 433-2200. (PR)

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Victory for vulnerable whale sharks at Pacific meeting

Asia and Pacific nations agreed at a meeting in the Philippines on Wednesday to take steps to protect whale sharks in a victory for the world's largest fish, officials said.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission nations agreed that tuna fishers must stop setting their nets around the vulnerable giants in order to catch smaller fish that gather underneath them, said Palau

fishing official Nanette Malsol.

She said the deal binds tuna-fishing nations such as the United States, China, and Japan, and was a victory for a coalition of small Pacific nations, called the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, that has been campaigning for this measure.

"This rule follows negotiations by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement for three years to try

and get the big fishing nations to adopt protections for whale sharks," said Malsol, who also heads the coalition.

The small Pacific island nations said they already imposed such a rule on their own tuna fishers.

Smaller fish like tuna congregate under whale sharks, so fishermen often seek the giants and set their nets under them to catch the other fish, said Angelo Villag-

omez, a spokesman of the U.S.-based Pew Environment Group.

As a result, whale sharks, which are considered a vulnerable species, often get entangled in tuna nets and die, he said.

Fifty whale sharks were recorded having died from tuna nets in 2010 and 19 in 2011, said Villagomez, adding that there were likely many other cases which went unreported.

Parties to the agreement reached at the Manila meeting Wednesday must free any whale shark that gets caught in their nets and must also record and report any incidents involving the giant fish, Malsol said.

The Pew group, which is also attending the meeting, is pressing for other measures to protect 143 other threatened species of sharks that are affected by tuna fishers.

However Villagomez said he doubted they would pass as some fishing countries actively catch these sharks.

Whale sharks measure as much as 12 meters (39 feet) long but are harmless to humans and feed on tiny marine animals. They have become popular tourist attractions in countries such as the Philippines, Mexico and Australia. (AFP)

Brilliant Star's Holiday Bazaar on Sunday

The annual Holiday Bazaar, organized by Brilliant Star School, will once again open the holiday season this year. This 8th annual event will be held Sunday, Dec. 9, from 9am to 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose

Center in Susupe. The event is an opportunity for artists and other vendors to showcase their arts, and for island residents and visitors to get an early start on buying unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays. The

daylong event is also graced by performances throughout the day by various community cultural and arts groups, as well as raffles with prizes donated by community businesses.

"We're looking forward to

another year of showcasing our island's arts, crafts, and gifts. We still have a couple of tables available for any interested artists or vendors," said Heather Kennedy, one of the event organizers. Interested vendors may

contact the school at 323-STAR (323-7827).

In the past, shoppers have commented on the convenience and comfort of finding such a variety of island gifts in a single place ahead of the holidays. The Holiday Bazaar has been likened to a mini-Flame Tree Arts Festival with air-conditioning. Some of the arts shoppers can expect to find this year include the photographs of Jack Hardy,

the artwork of Joe Weaver, Jean Rayphand, and Greg Elliott, Monika's Gallery items, handmade jewelry of Jill Vanderkin, Kim Peterson, and Kate Fuller, island crafts and jewelry of Tokie Mojica and Martin Castro, liqueurs from Island Infusions, gourmet candy by Michelle Sablan, leaf paintings, hand stamped and knitted items and Mary Kay products from Jill Arenovsky, handicrafts from Wang Jing Corp., autographed copies of Coco the Coconut Crab, jewelry and Christmas items from Nora Javier, handmade signs and photographs by Tammy James, leaf paintings by Ernie, homemade body scrubs by the Brilliant Star elementary class, and much more.

For parents who would like to have a little alone shopping time the event features an arts and crafts area for children. We will

watch your child and help them with an art project while you do your holiday shopping.

Throughout the day there will be entertainment by local performers, including Doremi School of Music, Saipan Music and Dance, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Zumba, Keynotes School of Music, tai chi performances, magic show by Cedrick the Magician, Polynesian dances, and Li'l Hands.

Raffle prizes have been donated through the generosity of various island businesses and vendors, and this year the lucky winners can expect to take home some beautiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, gift certificates from local hotel, stores and restaurants, waterpark passes from Pacific Islands Club and Saipan World Resort, phones from Docomo Pacific, a sunset cruise and many more. Drawings will be held hourly.

Bento box lunches, snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase.

"We look forward to once again hosting this event at the Multi-Purpose Center," said Richard Sikkel, principal of Brilliant Start School. "We expect a vibrant crowd from our school and island community because this event provides quality shopping and gets us all in the holiday spirit." (PR)

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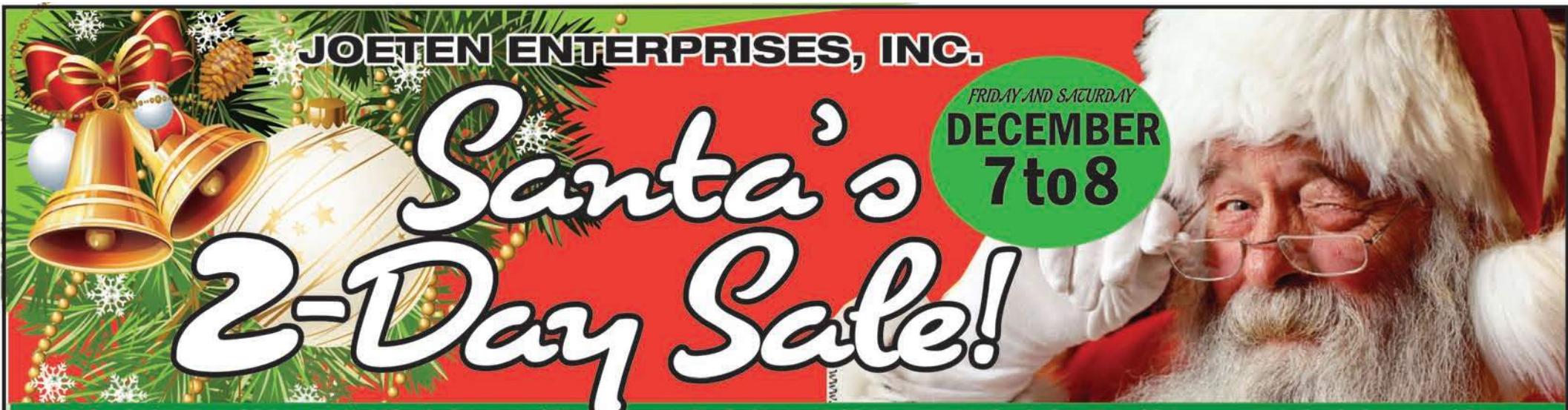
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Applicants must submit resume' showing all requirements to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association at the 3rd Floor, TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. To be considered, resume' must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, December 17, 2012.



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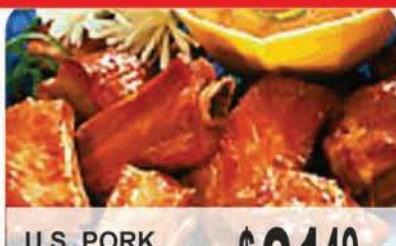
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Farmers, ranchers urged to respond to census

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers in the CNMI are encouraged to take part in the 2012 Census of Agriculture, a federal requirement that would support efforts to expand agriculture production on the islands.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service or NASS, the Census of Agriculture is a complete count of all farms and ranches in the U.S., including those that operate them.

The census looks at land use and ownership, operator char-

acteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other information that will be used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations.

The same information can also be used by private investors to determine aid in their efforts to expand agriculture production and marketing throughout the Commonwealth.

Renee Picano, director of NASS Census and Survey Division, said in a statement that the census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the U.S., describing it as a "criti-

cal tool" that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry, and operation.

"Your answers to the census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community. So do your part and be counted when you receive your form, because there's strength in numbers that only the census can reveal," added Picano.

The census forms, which would collect data for calendar year 2012, will be mailed out later this month. Completed forms should be returned by mail and are due by Feb. 4, 2013.

Agricultural producers can

also fill out the census online through a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov.

All individual information will be kept confidential.

"It is important that all agriculture producers, state farmers, women farmers, and ranchers respond. Census information is our voice and helps us to shape our farm future as tropical island farmers," said Kendal Hicks, district conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office on Saipan.

For more information, visit the USDA NRCS Saipan Field Office at the DY Building in South Garapan on Beach Road or call 233-3415.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 7, 2007

ISLA back in committee

The U.S. House of Representatives sent the CNMI immigration bill back to committee on Tuesday. The House Committee on the Judiciary was given until Dec. 11 to study provisions of the NMI Immigration, Security and Labor Act, or ISLA, that fall within the committee's jurisdiction. The Judiciary Committee is responsible for reviewing immigration, homeland security, and related matters. The House Committee on Natural Resources previously considered and made amendments to H.R. 3079. Last month, the committee recommended that the bill be considered by the House as a whole.

It's a go for 'historic' Unity March

Rain or shine, everything is set for today's historic Unity March and organizers expect a big turnout for the event, heralded as a show of unity against the new labor reform law, support for federalization of the CNMI's immigration system, and a call for improved status for long-term alien workers. Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal flew from Florida to join representative-elect Tina Sablan and other organizers and supporters during a news briefing yesterday at a pavilion along Beach Road, Garapan. The United Filipino Organization, an umbrella organization of 28 different Filipino organizations, finally broke its silence on the issues with the appearance of its president, Ramon Awit, at the conference. Organizers said Tinian and Rota will also conduct their own Unity March on the same day and time.

December 7, 2009

US Labor works on prevailing wage determinations in CNMI

The U.S. Department of Labor is now providing guidance for prevailing wage determinations for use in the CNMI effective Nov. 28, the date when the U.S. federal government took over CNMI immigration. But the USDOL notice was published a few days after federalization, in the Dec. 4 Federal Register. The prevailing wage is different from, and is generally higher than, the minimum wage. In the CNMI, the current minimum wage is \$4.55 an hour, and will increase by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

Census job fair draws hundreds

Uden Asperin, 50, patiently waited in line Saturday morning to turn in his application form and take the exam, hoping to become one of the needed enumerators for the 2010 CNMI Census. "I'm applying as a part-time enumerator and if I get accepted, I will be able to supplement my income," the father of two told Saipan Tribune in an interview after taking the exam. A Census enumerator would be paid \$15.94 an hour. Other positions will be paid anywhere between \$12.50 and \$25 an hour. The rates for Census' part-time and full-time jobs are way above the CNMI's current minimum wage of \$4.55 an hour, drawing the interest of community members who have to grapple with financial difficulties.

December 7, 2010

'Japan to pay for relocation of 4,000 Marines to Tinian'

Twelve lawmakers of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly told CNMI lawmakers yesterday that the Japanese government will pay for the cost of relocating up to 4,000 troops from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa to Tinian, but only if the U.S. government agrees. The Okinawan lawmakers, led by Shingaki Tetsuji of the LDP, asked local lawmakers to help urge the U.S. government to consider Tinian as relocation site for the 4,000 Marines that will be left at Futenma after 8,000 troops are moved to Guam as part of the regional buildup. Tetsuji's delegation met with members of the CNMI Senate, and then the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill yesterday afternoon.

CUC needs \$4.2M to overhaul five engines

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs \$4.25 million to complete the overhaul of five engines, according to its executive director Abe Utu Malae. Malae earlier disclosed that power generation on island is on course to crash because of the stalled overhaul and Saipan could go back to the days of frequent power outages if the scheduled overhaul of power engines is delayed any further. There are three power plants in Lower Base with a combined 21 engines. A few of these units are not currently working.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



Scrooges of Christmas '12

Now comes the Three Stooges to peddle harder on the "Fitialcare"—power plant deal—snowballed with the proposed shipyard and other yards around the Tanapag Harbor. The peddlers even discuss what it could mean to the NMI if one component or both are allowed here—jobs and tons of money—falling out of the blue skies of our hellish hole created by the governor.

I've dealt with this type of proposal before as head of the Department of Public Land. It's ambitious and raises more questions than there are answers. They are:

A. We don't need a new power plant now so why the rush to saddle generations with massive debt (\$2.3 billion over a 25-year period) as to compromise their economic freedom and future? We're not ready to buy into the mystery deal nor are we clueless of its future implications against households here.

B. The planned shipyard requires inclusion in the Pacific military buildup and approval by the U.S. Congress. In other words, Uncle Sam would have to give his blessings but would he defray the cost of two shipyards, one in Guam the other in the NMI and a ready-made third in Subic Bay?

C. This alone takes the air out of this proposal. In other words, there's serious doubt securing approval of federal tax dollars for two shipyards and in the same geographical location. It's non-sequitur!

D. Would this proposal move anywhere when there's Subic Bay in the Philippines? It's a facility built by the U.S. years ago. Is there any difficulty striking another deal for joint use so Uncle Sam protects the republic's sovereignty?

E. The Environmental Protection Agency comes into full view in moving WWII ships from their graveyards with its own sets of horrendous requirements that would literally kill the project. It's strike three even before the shipyard project lifts a finger!

F. This isn't the first time that such proposal was offered and the aforementioned issues simply compromised it from the outset. Sure, it sounds like good investment but the prospects of empowering our people to build brighter tomorrows is as real as a three-dollar bill. A lot of it is conjecture, no more, no less. We've taken a snapshot and had exhaustive discussions of the deals and its negative implications in the future of our children. The monstrosity is sobering.

There's your interest and ours. But we're not ready to become your new indentured slaves, struggling painfully everyday to pay our new share of fees and taxes by as much as \$40,000 per household so the two firms could collect. We slammed the brakes last Nov. 7.

The PPA also grants Saipan LLC exclusive confiscatory rights on CUC's properties. Does that include public land being used by the agency? This is contrary to Article 12, isn't it? Is this one of 71 anomalies identified by attorneys at the AG's Office but was overlooked for, well, mysterious reasons?

It is also rumored that Mahmood was jailed 18 months in the 1980s for securities fraud and theft. And he's peddling massive debts to saddle our children?

See SCROOGES on next page



TOY 2013

Peter B. Loken, the PSS/CNMI Teacher of the Year 2013 awardee from GES, was quoted as saying: "My teaching philosophy is I try to help [students] teach themselves..." He got our Thanksgiving Day vote of gratitude, and as a former PSS teacher, our vote of confidence as well.

Teaching students to teach themselves is a philosophy enshrined in the rhetoric of our educational system. Expertise in the learning process and teaching methods is far more valuable than expertise in subject content. This dichotomy is not, however, exclusive. The saying that those who cannot do, teach, plays better at Comedy Central than on the reality of the schoolyard. Real teachers practice what they teach, and our assumption is that Loken teaches what he personally knows to be effective.

When we had more than 24 students per class at San Vicente Elementary School, the teachers' murmuring was loud and clear. Teaching students how to discover their own learning mode, and improve on the effectiveness and efficiency of their learning methods, takes one-on-one mentoring. It causes gridlock in crowded classrooms, and is incongruent to the universal requirements of standardized tests and teaching to the mean.

Teaching teachers how to teach so that they may also learn while teaching their students how to learn (sounds like a tongue-twister, isn't it) is a student-centered perspective. But when teachers' ratings are based on how their students fare in such tests as the SAT, we develop teachers who teach to the "test." I would rather see a teacher orchestrate an authentic encounter between teacher and student(s), between student-to-student, and among students-teacher-guests-and-authors, than one who is worried about how his/her CV would look after students take standardized tests.

It is not unheard of that teachers and school systems "cheat" on standardized tests to bolster their reputation and increase prospects for grants. In my last year as a PSS teacher at SVES, I duplicated copies of a previous SAT test, gave all the 6th grade teachers at the school a copy, and informed them that I had enough copies for each of my classroom students to practice on.

Fifteen minutes later, I was called to the principal's office. I was sternly informed that PSS recycle tests because it could not afford to purchase the yearly edition. So the one I was about to show the students was actually the same one the students would take during the testing season. I quickly surrendered all the copies I made.

I chuckled then since I knew that two other schools did exactly what I was about to do. In any case, since our pedagogy was more tailored to students discovering their sense of noticing, expressing their feelings, articulating their thoughts, and being intentional in their plans, I looked upon a high rating in the SAT as more of a happy consequence if it happened but not the focus of our class lesson plan. That did not save us, however, from the reputation of being a "cheat." Served me right for falling prey to the very trap I decried.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



We watch with dismay the pedagogical style of higher education here in China, patterned after the expert-dependent university system of the West, but laid over the earlier tradition of the virtuous pedagogue steeped in the country's memory of the Four Classical Novels, the Four Books, and Kongzi's Five Classics.

This would be fine if it addresses the question of useful skills, accumulated knowledge, and discourses on final meanings that is inherent in the wisdom of every culture, but it falls short even on the skills' epitude pole that China's new industries require.

Oral English classes are electives that students take it for the additional credit to graduate. That we teach them methods on how they can attain clarity of expression, and disciplines of critical thinking, in the second language the new China has adopted, come as a big surprise.

Back to Loken and the crop of teachers in place in the CNMI. Much has been said of NMC's failure to produce students who qualify to fill public service jobs and private sector offices, as if producing corporate employees were the sole function of education.

In socially stratified and status-conscious Chamolinian culture, certification matters, which is not meant to explain why we have more lawyers than we need on the islands, but it certainly explains why we have more public sector employees than are needed to provide efficient and effective services.

China recently conducted a civil service exam for 20,000 available positions. Two million applicants, all duly certificated, took the test. Civil service positions are prized slots. Public service shows low attrition rate.

Outgoing President Hu Jintao warned the recent National Congress of the Communist Party of China that if corruption in party ranks is not curtailed and systemic failure to listen to the public continues, the New China would collapse in a decade. The practices of discovery and innovation, once the bastion of the decimated middle class of America after the corporate culture promoted job security and market opportunism, will have to be appropriated by China's illuminati if the nation is to weather the radical transition it is going through.

As for me in China, I tinker at the basement. We prod with extreme caution.

We wish Mr. Loken a productive year. May his tribe increase!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tourism on a cardboard sea

Many folks on Saipan can relate to this paradox: If you work in the tourism industry, you might seldom get a chance to be a tourist yourself. It's not the biggest problem in the world, but it's hard to keep a perspective from the customer's viewpoint unless you're in a customer's shoes.

I've spent my favorite years in the tourism industry. My duties have included flying helicopter tours, working in management, and serving as a consultant in venues ranging from the bustle of Tokyo to the wilds of Borneo.

As I'm soaking up fun as a tourist during a mainland vacation, it's a good opportunity for me to refresh my tourism thinking from the customer's viewpoint. After all, this time around, I am the customer. I also stumbled on a cool little mystery that I'll serve at the end of this article as literary dessert.

One truth worth heeding is that it takes a lot of energy to serve tourists. It's not an industry for slugs. In the upper-echelon tourism venues, I noticed a lot of very energetic young people (college age) tending stores, restaurants, and hotel counters. Many are seasonal workers who are attracted to skiing and outdoor sports, so the related perquisites of their jobs can be just as important as their salaries are.

Some of these workers hail from afar, such as Europe. For example, one gal tending a souvenir store was an engineering student from Romania. She works for a few months at a resort in Wyoming, soaking up all the skiing she can get, then she goes back home to her studies. She speaks four languages.

I know that some resorts in Saipan have employed bright young collegiate types, and the advantages seem obvious, since they're often gregarious and enthusiastic. By contrast, Saipan has also seen its

share of sullen, gum-chewing clerks and restaurant servers, so we're all over the scale on this one.

During my vacation I've noticed a very wide range of quality in hotels. Most of the mid-tier hotels are very pleasant and well-managed. But some are downright filthy and shabby, and I'm talking about major brands. It's an inefficient market.

In theory, the flood tide of Internet feedback would knock the market into a more efficient stance, and I guess it has a little bit, but it isn't a perfect solution. After all, I'm convinced that 90 percent of the world's population would merrily sit in a rotting pool of hog vomit as long as they have a big screen TV and a free breakfast bar.

Incidentally, some of the best hotels I've encountered have been independent names. They also seem more aggressive about cutting prices to maintain occupancy in slow periods.

If there's one thing where America is tops, it's retailing, and tourism venues are no exception. From the discount outlets in the western deserts to the upper-tier enclaves of lush resorts, I'm amazed at how robust the retailing sector is. Stores are well-arranged, very inviting, and highly efficient.

Some customers are independent travelers such as my wife and I, and we just sort of lazily lollygag about. Meanwhile, on the other hand, entire busloads of package tourists from foreign lands are in play, too, and they're typically very energetic shoppers who hit the stores with the determination of troops storming a beach.

Now, as promised, here's a little mystery. It proves, among other things, that Saipan doesn't have a monopoly on intrigues.

I was having coffee in a little cafe. Next to the cafe was a store that was apparently vacant and out of business. I stepped outside the cafe to take a cell phone call, whereupon I saw about 10 identically-dressed women arrive at the vacant store en masse.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



The lights came on. The shelves were stocked. Signs announcing sales went up. No sooner did the last sign go up than three large tourism buses pulled up. Foreign tourists filed off of the buses and directly into the store, with their tour guides steering them around assertively.

About 30 minutes later the tourists filed back onto the buses, purchases in hand. The last bus wasn't three feet out the parking lot before the wares came back off the shelves. The signs came down. The lights went out. The identically-dressed women left. All was dark and empty again.

Mysterious? Sure. Impressive? Yeah! My microeconomics professors would have applauded. Want to talk about optimizing resources? I can't think of a better example. And it was an example hiding in plain sight. Were it not for my cell phone call, I would have been oblivious to the entire gig.

It reminds me of an old song, "It's only a paper moon, sailing over a cardboard sea."

Well, yes. Yes, it is. And here I am, sailing along with it.

Now if you'll excuse me I need to hit the breakfast bar for some waffles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give your mouth a rest, Herminia

Regarding the recent election, I do respect the people's choices and wish the 18th Legislature success, good health, and good luck. For your information, Herminia, I don't obsess just over casinos and marijuana, but ever since the Zoning Board kicked you out for your fussy micro-managing of everybody's lives, it seems you are obsessed with attacking me ever since I was helpful in getting you tossed from the Zoning Office.

My record shows that I've introduced a far-ranging variety of purposeful bills, which cover protection to animals, driver's education programs, Marianas Political Status, zoning amendments, nuclear-free amendments and alternative energy, NMC, PSS, expungement rights, fiscal responsibility, weapons control, CUC transparency reforms, film and media, MVB reforms, PUC reforms, fire safety, etc. Some of these bills were not acted upon, but I hope they will be entertained or introduced again later.

It seems you take straightforward legislation and turn it into bizarre phrases like "people will run around blasting away with 12-gauge shotguns" (don't you realize that meth-fueled robberies are skyrocketing and people are being forced to protect themselves), or "I'll need to lock myself in my house to prevent someone who got a simple misdemeanor expunged from immediately attacking me" (do you really think people are obsessed with attacking you and, furthermore, felonies would not be expunged, only given a

restoration of rights), or "Torres wants to tell people what kind of lights they can have on their cars" (apparently you don't care about safety issues involving black lenses on tail lights or weird colors for headlights), or "do you mean to tell me graffiti is currently legal" (if you would read our laws before spouting off your busy mouth, you would find that graffiti is only specifically penalized in our public parks and must be cited by a CNMI park ranger?), or "does he think there is a chance in the world that a bill will go anywhere in a lame-duck month of December" (sessions are held in a lame-duck period and bills are passed; besides, the bill is pre-filed for future consideration). So, get a life, Herminia, and read before you drool.

From my experience as a legislator, you are the worst kind of community critic that exists. You are a miserable person who only likes to criticize anyone trying to make changes in our economy and way of life; but are you actually chasing any of the real problems on our islands? If you want to put your mouth to good use, please visit the jail and scold the prisoners if you so desire, join a neighborhood watch, or open up a business that will help the CNMI, instead of spending your busybody idle time criticizing people who, with public input, try to improve things.

Yes, I'll be spending time on my farm thinking about my successes and failures, and I can live with myself that I attempted to

make changes in a world that has many problems. However, Herminia Fussco, one of the worst problems I could conceive of would be married to you. For that I would need a ton of marijuana.

Stanley McGinnis Torres

Capital Hill, Saipan

Stop the CUC deal immediately!

Beware, CNMI! Search for Kenneth Mahmood on Google and you will find many disturbing articles about him. Jason Osborne helped Fitial win his re-election and caused five more years of suffering for the people of the CNMI. The CUC contract stinks all over and you can't trust Fitial and all these people involved with this scheme of stealing more money from the CNMI. Even CUC officials said that this contract is unnecessary!

Antonio Aldan

Kagman, Saipan

their larded homogenized, pasteurized or silk milk. To our people, let's repeat the refrain of last Nov. 7: *No Mas!*

Fiscal cliff debacle

Eighteen years ago, the Clinton Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform warned that unless something concrete is done to control unbridle entitlement spending, Medicare and Social Security would go bankrupt or suffer severe cuts in benefits.

The warning came from Chris Cox, a former chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Bill Archer, a former chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee.

The beastly monstrosity is back on the national table but slammed to the floor and given the leprosy treatment. Both sides have started kicking the can down Capitol Hill into Pennsylvania Avenue. Democrats are firmly recalcitrant to any cuts in spending but want increases for the wealthy. The hope to counter these arguments, while aplenty, lacks a fully poised messenger to carry and tell the opposing story in simple fashion so that taxpayers can grasp what it all means to their family pocketbooks.

The greater issue is the reported total in our national government's

deficit. It isn't \$16 trillion but more like \$86.8 trillion, according to Messrs. Cox and Archer. The duo said that the far greater fiscal challenge of the U.S. government is its unfunded pension and healthcare liabilities, vital figures that have been kept off the table all these years. "Why haven't Americans heard about the titanic \$86.8 trillion liability from these programs? One reason: The actual figures do not appear in black and white on any balance sheet.

"Were American policy makers to have the benefit of transparent financial statements prepared the way public companies must report their pension liabilities, they would see clearly the magnitude of the future borrowing that these liabilities imply. Borrowing on this scale could eclipse the capacity of global capital markets and bankrupt the programs. Bankruptcy would also hit the entire federal government," according to Cox and Archer.

There's a reason for featuring this issue: The need to include the unfunded pension and healthcare liabilities of future pensioners. I am sure this would give policymakers an eye opening ocular review and clear perception of the true nature of the NMI's financial posture. Is the total unfunded liability with the Fund at \$622 million or more like over a billion dollars? Get the gist of what's at issue on missing information needed for real insightful policymaking?

SCROOGES

From Page 10

Furthermore, the NMI can't even find \$38 million to defray the operations of CHC. It has avoided remitting employer's contribution to the Fund of about \$50 million annually, racking up a debt of \$322 million. And it still sees fit to saddle itself with a power plant deal that pans out to \$2.3 billion over a 25-year period? The decision is oxymoronic given the financial posture of the NMI.

Mahmood and Osborne can give the controversial power plant deal and their planned shipyard their mighty snowballing job. Lest you forget, however, we're not the ignorant and servile islanders who'd take the peddling of massive debts lying down. We said "*No Mas*" last Nov. 7 and we will continue to deliver the same powerful message from "We the people."

We'd rather sacrifice now in the interest of our children's future than brave bowing to the whims of the Three Scrooges: Mahmood, Osborne, and Fitial. We don't deserve any iota of it.

In fact, the entire deal is best dealt with by dumping it in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Tell the Scrooges of this Christmas to start drinking

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 25 ▼ 14
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 64
Miami	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
New York	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 43
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 40
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 29
Pusan	Windy	▲ 44 ▼ 29
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 34
Salem	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 28 ▼ 13
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 38
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 48

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:31 AM	5:46 PM	Today	12:07 AM	12:30 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM	Saturday	12:59 AM	1:13 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM	Sunday	1:55 AM	1:58 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM	Monday	2:53 AM	2:48 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Tuesday	3:55 AM	3:42 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7			UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7		
UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5			UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily		
UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily			UA5073 9:50am 10:40am Daily		
UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7		
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily			UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily		
UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily			UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily		
UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily					
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily			DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily		
DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily			DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily		
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)			PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7			OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6		
OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3			OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1			OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily		
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7		
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily			OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU7108 2:50am 5:55am 1, 3, 5			MU7107 6:30pm 1:50am+1 2,		

Grand opening today for Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon is celebrating its grand opening today with a ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony that also marks its official move from its former location to a new and bigger one within the same building.

The transfer of the full-service unisex salon to Suite 2 at the ground floor of RJ Plaza Building along Chalan Msgr. Guerrero in Dandan comes almost two months since the rebranding made by its new proud owner, Marcia E. Ayuyu.

Ayuyu said the move is very timely as Cutz & Colours saw an increase in the number of customers they serve after tak-

ing ownership of the former Mercy's Salon, which did business on island for 26 years.

"We at Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon look forward to having our customers visit our new location where they can enjoy being pampered through our salon services," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

The new Cutz & Colours boasts of a spacious interior in muted tones and soft hues. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the place is currently decked out with poinsettia arrangements, a Christmas tree, and a life-sized statue of Santa Claus.

The salon features multiple stations for haircut and hair styling services, including one that caters to younger clients. It also has a facial service sta-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The new Cutz & Colours boasts of a spacious interior in muted tones and soft hues.

tion and a carpeted massage room that's tucked away from the bustle of the parlor, ensuring a peaceful and quiet time for massage customers.

Cutz & Colours' signature services are provided by a professional and highly skilled staff composed of three beauticians and a masseuse.

"We want our customers to feel at home whenever they come in here. With our new location, they can get pampered and feel relaxed," Ayuyu said, adding that customers have

enough parking space at the salon's front and back sides.

Ayuyu thanked her husband, Joe Ayuyu, for making her dream business come true. "He knows it's been my dream to have a business like this, and I want to thank him for making it possible."

Salon manager and hairstylist Mercy Pangilinan said the new location gives both staff and clients more space to move around, and is part of their efforts to improve Cutz & Colours early on given that their grow-

ing clientele outgrew their former location.

"We're excited and our customers are even more excited because they want to see our new place, which is much nicer," said Pangilinan.

Ayuyu assures that Cutz & Colours aims to develop a personal relationship with each and every customer. "We encourage people to leave what they're doing once in a while and get pampered. Visit us at Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon and let us pamper you."



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Cutz & Colours features a carpeted massage room that's away from the bustle of the parlor, ensuring a peaceful and quiet time for massage customers.

IP&E helps Palau typhoon relief efforts

KOROR, Palau—IP&E announced yesterday a \$10,000 contribution to ongoing relief efforts in Palau in the aftermath of the emergency caused by super typhoon Bopha.

While super typhoon Bopha wreaked havoc on Palau, hundreds of residents have been made homeless due to flooding that washed away homes and belongings. Additionally, there have been power outages and interruption to business, public safety, and everyday life. In an effort to assist with the recovery effort, IP&E has announced

that 5 cents per gallon of every purchase at Shell Stations will be donated to the Palau relief efforts. From now until the \$10,000 goal is reached, every customer has an opportunity to participate in the recovery effort.

Frank Kyota, IP&E Palau manager stated, "IP&E is pleased to be able to contribute to relief efforts and doing it in this way we are enabling the community to participate as well. It's our way of saying thanks to the community that has supported us along the way." (IP&E)

Grand opening specials
In celebration of its grand opening, Cutz & Colours is offering special promotions as a way to thank their regular customers and encourage new ones.

Customers can enjoy a 30-percent discount on all salon services throughout the day.

Starting today, the salon will give a raffle ticket to each customer who avails of any of their services. Customers will have the chance to obtain tickets right before the raffle draw on Dec. 31. Exciting prizes await raffle winners, including salon services and other gift certificates.

Cutz & Colours also offers a one-hour massage for only \$20, a \$10 discount from its \$30 regular price. The salon also has a massage special, which involves three sessions for only \$45. Appointment is needed to avail of both promotions.

Discounted rates are also available for birthday, wedding and other event packages so you can look good on your special day, said Ayuyu.

"Visit us at Cutz & Colours and try out our salon services, and we will surely make your stay worth your while," she added.

Cutz & Colours is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sunday from 12nn to 7pm. To make an appointment or for more information, call 235-1990.

We are inviting you to our
"Grand Opening"
Cutz & Colours
 HIS & HER SALON

December 07, 2012 – Friday, 10:00am
Come and Join us on our opening day!

• Avail 30% discount on all of our services on our opening date only!
 For appointment, please call telephone # 235-1990

• Get a chance to win great prizes
 Avail any services and receive one (1) raffle ticket
 Raffle drawing will be on December 31, 2012 – 1:00pm
 Last day to drop the raffle ticket is on December 31, 12nn.
 (No need to be present to win)

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DUI checkpoints today, Saturday, Sunday

As part of 2012 National Campaign for Drunk and Drugged Driving prevention month, the Department of Public Safety's Police Division and Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints for the next three days.

Today, Dec. 7, 2012, the first setup will be from 7:30pm to 8:45pm, along Chalan Pale' Arnold Road, Puerto Rico, by the Army Reserve Compound. The second setup is from

10:30pm to 11:45pm, along Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, by the Bank of Saipan.

Tomorrow, Dec. 8, 2012, the first setup is from 11:30pm to 12:45am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Kaipat's residence. The second setup is on Dec. 9, 2012, from 2am to 3:15am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold Road, Garapan by Taro Sue Store.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, the first setup is from

6:30pm to 7:45pm, along Beach Road Susupe by the Minachom Attdao Pavilion. The second setup is from 9:30pm to 10:45pm, along Chalan Pale' Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, by Safety First.

Each sobriety checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, traffic and highway patrol officers will be conducting high visibility enforcement, and or laser (speed detection) enforcement

in between these checkpoints and throughout the December holiday month.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

For more information, contact Sgt. Ed Ayuyu, Traffic Section, at (670) 664-9001. (DPS)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 6th birthday to our "Dudus-brat" girl, Prescella Sherol-Rose K. Sablan! God bless you and wishing you many more birthdays to come. We love you always! Greetings come from Faith, Rojo, and Gunner.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to the best son, big brother, cousin, and friend, Isaiah Sablan! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Seth, Amor, and all your family and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Advanced happy 6th birthday to Vinnaleen Jowicia Fatial Muna! May God bless you always! We love you! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and Nana Girl.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 2nd Birthday to our handsome butt, Rhian Napu Dela Rosa Borden! We love you so much, you fill our hearts with so much joy and happiness. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and your sister Tyreen Mercedes.

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

CK Pool Bar burglary

NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the CK Pool Bar, south of the Chalan Kanoa Post Office.

On Friday, Nov. 2, 2012, at about 6:33pm, police responded to the burglary incident and learned from the owner, a 58-year-old Asian female, that the establishment was closed for two days. On the day of the report, about 6pm, the owner found the front door unlocked. She walked into the bar and discovered the crime.

The stolen items include three standing fans, bar stools, two Samsung old model television sets, one eight-foot ladder, 36 pool cue sticks, and a one chandelier. The estimated value of the stolen items is over \$50,000. There were no signs of forced entry.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)



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FSM leaders renew shark conservation commitments

POHNPEI—Lawmakers from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae and national government of the Federated States of Micronesia met this week to discuss the development of legislation to protect sharks in their territorial waters.

In advance of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures meeting, state leaders shared updates on local efforts to create measures to protect sharks in the region. The Kosrae Legislature passed a bill banning the sale, trade, and possession of shark/commercial shark fishing in all waters

under state control, which Gov. Lyndon Jackson signed into law in October.

"I am proud to have Kosrae take this first step to protect sharks and the health of our ocean," said Sen. Tulensa Palik, vice chairman of the state's Committee on Resources and Development who introduced the bill. "It is important now for the national government to join us to protect sharks and the health of our ocean."

In Chuuk, a similar shark conservation bill is now before the governor for signature, according to Sen. Stephen Nel-

son. Yap is also drafting shark protections and Pohnpei has committed to introducing legislation to protect sharks in early January.

Shark protections have already been established in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Once all four members of the Federated States of Micronesia—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—as well as the national government have

passed their laws, it will result in a regional sanctuary covering 2 million square miles.

Implementation of the Palau and Marshall Islands sanctuaries has already begun with marine enforcement trainings held in Majuro

in September and Palau in November. The trainings included a hands-on tactical workshop and encouraged collaboration between government agencies charged with enforcing marine conservation laws.

Up to 73 million sharks are killed every year, primarily for their fins. Sharks, which grow slowly, mature late and produce few young during their lifetimes, have difficulty recovering from overfishing and depletion. These apex predators, living at the top of the food web, are key to maintaining the health of ocean ecosystems.

"NGOs are working collaboratively with state partners in conducting both public awareness and biological monitoring of sharks," said Eugene Joseph, executive director of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei. "CSP and partners recently completed a shark tagging project in partnership with University of Guam. We found that where sharks are present, coral

reef ecosystem is healthy."

"We applaud the leaders of Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap for their continued commitment to shark conservation," said Liz Karan, manager of the Pew Environment Group's Global Shark Conservation Campaign. "Micronesia is an important piece in the puzzle to protect sharks in the region."

This meeting comes as delegates from 25 countries meet in Manila for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. To date WCPFC has not taken comprehensive action to protect sharks so individual countries are moving forward to protect their ocean resources, declaring shark sanctuaries. (PR)

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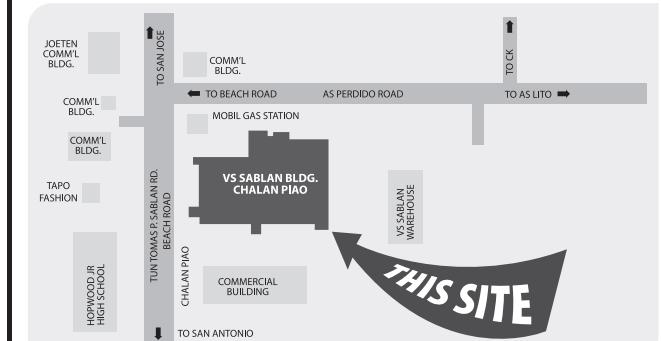
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Business

Obama and Boehner discuss fiscal cliff by phone

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time in days, President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner spoke by phone Wednesday about the “fiscal cliff” that threatens to knock the economy into recession, raising the prospect of fresh negotiations to prevent tax increases and spending cuts set to kick in with the new year.

Officials provided no details of the conversation, which came on the same day the president,

hewing to a hard line, publicly warned congressional Republicans not to inject the threat of a government default into the already complex issue.

“It’s not a game I will play,” Obama told a group of business leaders as Republicans struggled to find their footing in talks with a recently re-elected president and unified congressional Democrats.

Among the Republicans, Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklaho-

ma became the latest to break ranks and say he could support Obama’s demand for an increase in tax rates at upper incomes as part of a comprehensive plan to cut federal deficits.

Across the Capitol, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said Republicans want to “sit down with the president. We want to talk specifics.” He noted that the GOP had made a compromise offer earlier in the week and the White House had

rejected it.

Officials said after the talk between Obama and Boehner, R-Ohio, there was no immediate plan for a resumption of negotiations to avert the cliff. At the same time, they said that for the first time in



Obama



Boehner

“We can probably solve this in about a week, it’s not that tough,” Obama said in lunchtime remarks to the Business

Roundtable.

It has been several days since either the president or congressional

cliff” if necessary and gamble that the public blames Republicans for any fallout.

Eventually, Democrats acknowledge, there will be compromise talks, possibly quite soon, toward an agreement that raises revenues, reins in Medicare and other government benefit programs, and perhaps raises the government’s \$16.4 trillion borrowing limit.

For now, the demonstration of presidential inflexibility appears designed to show that, unlike two years ago, Obama will refuse to sign legislation extending top-rate tax cuts and also to allow public and private pressure to build on the Republican leadership.

US hiring last month was likely held back by Sandy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The combination of U.S. employers that shut down because of Superstorm Sandy and fears over looming tax increases and spending cuts likely slowed hiring sharply in November.

A private survey released Wednesday showed companies added fewer workers last month than in October. The same picture is expected when the government issues a more comprehensive jobs report for November on Friday.

Still, most analysts say the underlying economy remains healthy and is creating jobs at a still-modest but steady pace.

Economists expect Friday’s government report to show em-

ployers added 110,000 jobs in November, according to FactSet. And they think the unemployment rate will remain 7.9 percent.

Other analysts expect much lower job gains, roughly 25,000 to 50,000, because of Sandy and anxiety over the tax increases and spending cuts set to take effect in January.

Yet without the depressive effects of Superstorm Sandy, many think employers would have added up to 200,000 jobs last month—even stronger than the solid 171,000 jobs added in October.

“We don’t think the labor market has lost any underlying momentum,” Paul Edelstein,

an economist at IHS Global Insight said. “We just have these two issues.”

Superstorm Sandy tore into the East Coast on Oct. 29, closing restaurants, retailers and other businesses and cutting off power to 8 million homes in 10 states.

The government would count people who couldn’t get to work and weren’t paid as job losses, even if they were temporary. Those subtractions would reduce net hiring.

Though Sandy shrank some company payrolls, it might not have affected the unemployment rate. The rate is calculated from a separate government survey of households.

a few days, at least one top presidential aide had been in touch with Republicans by email on the subject.

Each side has been declaring that the crisis can be averted if the other will give ground.



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Indoor Volleyball Referee (MHS Gym)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 13 & 14, 2012 Dec 18 & 20, 2012 Dec 27 & 28, 2012

BASKETBALL COURSES (MHS Gym)

Scoretable Official (Consecutive 3-day Sessions)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 4, 6, 11, 2012 Dec 17, 19, 21, 2012
L "O"/1 Basketball Referee (Consecutive 5-day Sessions)	4:00p-8:00p	Dec 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 2012 Jan 7-11, 2013

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Nation

NY subway victim's daughter: 'What's done is done'

NEW YORK (AP)—The daughter of a man pushed in front of a subway train and photographed a split-second before his death said Wednesday after a suspect was arrested that it "would have been great" if someone had helped her father up but "what's done is done."

"The thought of someone helping him up in a matter of seconds would have been great," she said.

A freelance photographer for the New York Post was waiting for a train Monday afternoon when he said he saw a man approach 58-year-old Ki-Suck Han at the Times Square station, get into an altercation with him and push him into the train's path.

Naeem Davis, 30, was taken into custody for questioning Tuesday after security video showed a man fitting the suspect's description working with street vendors near Rockefeller Center. Police said Davis made statements implicating himself in Han's death.

Davis, who police said was homeless, was arrested on a second-degree murder charge. He was in custody, and it wasn't immediately clear if he had a lawyer. He has several prior arrests in New York and Pennsylvania on mostly minor charges including drug possession.

Han's only child, 20-year-old Ashley, said at a news conference Wednesday that her father was always willing to help someone. But when asked about why no one helped him up, she said: "What's done is done."

"It took me a second to figure out what was happening ... I saw the lights in the distance. My mind was to alert the train," Abbasi said.

"The thought of someone helping him up in a matter of seconds would have been great," she said.

Ashley stood with her mother, Serim Han, inside their Presbyterian church in Queens. The family came to the U.S. from Korea about 25 years ago. They said Han was unemployed and had been looking for work. Their pastor said the family was so upset by a front-page photo of Han in the Post that they had to stay with him for comfort.

"I just wish I had one last chance to tell my dad how much I love him," Ashley Han said.

The Post photo in Tuesday's edition showed Ki-Suck Han with his head turned toward the train, his arms reaching up but unable to climb off the tracks in time.

The photographer, R. Umar Abbasi, told NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that he was trying to alert the motorman to what was going on by flashing his camera.

He said he was shocked that people nearer to the victim

didn't try to help in the 22 seconds before the train struck.

"It took me a second to figure out what was happening ... I saw the lights in the distance. My mind was to alert the train," Abbasi said.

"The people who were standing close to him ... they could have moved and grabbed him and pulled him up. No one made an effort," he added.

In a written account Abbasi gave the Post, he said a crowd took videos and snapped photos on their cellphones after Han was pulled, limp, onto the platform. He said he shoved them back as a doctor and another man tried to resuscitate the victim, but Han died in front of them.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Han, "if I understand it, tried to break up a fight or something and paid for it with his life."

The suspect's last known address was in a working-class neighborhood in Queens. The only neighbor who even vaguely remembered Davis was Charles Dawes, 80, who stays with his son two doors down.

Davis "came and went, came and went, and he always looked serious," Dawes said. "But I haven't seen him for three or four months."

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Davis "came and went, came and went, and he always looked serious," Dawes said. "But I haven't seen him for three or four months."

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Social Security fast-tracks rare-disease claims

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an effort to ease the burden of being stricken with a debilitating condition, the Social Security Administration is expanding a program that fast-tracks disability claims by people who get serious illnesses such as cancer, early-onset Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease—claims that could take months or years to approve in the past.

While providing faster benefits, the program also is designed to ease the workload of an agency that has been swamped by disability claims since the economic recession a few years ago.

Disability claims are up by more than 20 percent from 2008. The Compassionate Allowances program approves many claims for a select group

of conditions within a few days, Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said. The program is being expanded Thursday to include a total of 200 diseases and conditions.

Many of the conditions are rare; all of them are so serious that people who suffer from them easily meet the government's definition of being disabled, Astrue said. With proper documentation, these are relatively easy cases for the agency to decide, too easy to put through the usual time-consuming process that other applicants face, he said.

"Why for someone who is going to die within 15 months do we need 15 years of medical records?" Astrue said in an interview. "If somebody's got a confirmed diagnosis of ALS, you

know that in essence, it's not only a disability, it's a death sentence, and there is no use in burdening them with paperwork."

High demand during the sour economy has made it difficult for Social Security to reduce disability claims backlog and wait times for decisions. About 3.2 million people have applied for disability benefits this year, up from 2.6 million in 2008, the agency said.

Disability claims usually increase when the economy is bad because people who managed to work even though they had a disability lose their jobs and apply for benefits. Others who have disabilities may not qualify for benefits but apply anyway because they are unemployed and have nowhere else to turn.

ACROSS THE NATION

4 found slain in Detroit home; homicides spiking

DETROIT (AP)—Four people were found shot to death in a Detroit home, authorities said Wednesday, padding the city's homicide total that already has surpassed last year's. Officers discovered the bodies of a teenage boy, two men and woman Tuesday night at a home in an east-side neighborhood. Investigators believed the killings were drug-related, police spokeswoman Yvette Walker said. The Wayne County medical examiner's office identified the victims Wednesday as Shawn Bender, 16; Janetta Harris, 22; Jason Koester, 28; and Dyrelle Davis, 34. Harris died of multiple gunshot wounds, while the other three were shot in the head, according to the office.

At 450 pounds, Ohio killer fights execution

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—At about 450 pounds, Ohio death row inmate Ronald Post is so fat that his executioners won't be able to find veins in his arms or legs for the lethal injection, and he might even break the death chamber gurney, his lawyers say. If the state is forced to use a backup method that involves injecting the drugs directly into muscle, the process could require multiple doses over several hours or even days and result in a grueling and painful end, they say. Post, who gained close to 200 pounds on death row, is trying to stave off execution Jan. 16 for the 1983 killing of a motel clerk during a robbery, arguing that because of his obesity, an attempt to put him to death would amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

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DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950



ANNOUNCEMENT (REVISED)

LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PHASE I

(amendment from 10/10/12 announcement)

Opening Date: November 30, 2012

Closing Date: December 13, 2012

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening thirty (30) job skills training opportunities that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from December 19, 2012 to September 30, 2013 and will cover the following program areas: CHILD PROTECTION UNIT; JUVENILE PROBATION UNIT; PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM; FAMILY AND YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AND DYS OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR. Selected participants must complete at least 100 hours of training from respective units/programs above and complete at least 5 trainings offered by DYS. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Assisting with administrative services
- Assisting with client services and program delivery
- Participating in Innovative and informative trainings offered by DYS
- Establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Acting as outreach liaison between DYS and the community
- Conducting community needs assessment through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned

The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community. The stipend is a one-time \$500 payment for fulfilling the above requirements. Training hours will vary with the unit/program in which the selected participant is assigned to.

Applications may be picked up at the DYS Office of the Director, House #1324 in Capitol Hill. For further information, please contact Vivian Sablan at 664-2559 or Alex Olopai at 664-2552.

Applicants must be able to work in the CNMI.

ANNOUNCEMENT (REVISED)

LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PHASE II

Opening Date: November 30, 2012

Closing Date: December 13, 2012

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening ten (10) job skills training opportunities that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from December 19, 2012 to September 30, 2013 and will cover the following program areas: PARENT EDUCATION CHILDREN'S PROGRAM; DYS EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM AND FAMILY AND YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM. Selected participants must complete at least 450 hours of training from respective units/programs above and complete at least 5 trainings offered by DYS. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Providing direct care, tutorial and recreational activities to Emergency Shelter clients
- Providing programs and services under the Parent Education Children's Program based on the Parents Anonymous Children's Program Standards and Benchmarks
- Assisting with the delivery of family and youth enhancement programs
- Participating in Innovative and informative trainings offered by DYS
- Assisting with the Community Outreach events and establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Conducting community needs assessment through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned

The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community. The one-time stipend for this opportunity is \$2,500 for fulfilling the above requirements, however, payment can be requested on a monthly basis. Training hours will vary with the type of services needing immediate scheduling. Applicants must meet certain requirements.

Applications may be picked up at the DYS Office of the Director, House #1324 in Capitol Hill. For further information, please contact Vivian Sablan at 664-2559 or Alex Olopai at 664-2552.

Applicants must be able to work in the CNMI.

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs FY 2013 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2013 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds as defined in section 676A of the CSBG Act under Title XX of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A total of \$90,000 is made available to be divided and sub-granted to 3 non-government agencies/non-profit community organizations in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the CSBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CSBG funding is to make grants to States and Territories for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities and the empowerment of low-income families to become fully self-sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged addressed through the CSBG Six (6) National Performance Indicators.

All proposals must be submitted to the DCCA Office of the Secretary no later than December 13, 2012, 4:30 p.m. A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, subgrantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS main office, House #1324 in Capitol Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Vivian T. Sablan, CSBG Program Coordinator, at 664-2559 or Ms. Resel Billy-Magofna at 664-2568.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

This ad has been paid for by the Community Services Block Grant under
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Asia

About 350 die in PH typhoon, 400 missing

NEW BATAAN, Philippines

(AP)—A powerful typhoon that washed away emergency shelters, a military camp and possibly entire families in the southern Philippines has killed almost 350 people with nearly 400 missing, authorities said Thursday.

More bodies were retrieved from hardest-hit Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental provinces and six others impacted by Tuesday's storm, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

At least 200 of the victims died in Compostela Valley alone, including 78 villagers and soldiers who perished in a flash flood that swamped two emergency shelters and a military camp.

"Entire families may have been washed away," said Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who visited New Bataan on Wednesday. The farming town of 45,000 people was a muddy wasteland of collapsed houses and coconut and banana trees felled by ferocious winds.

Bodies of victims were laid on the ground for viewing by people searching for missing relatives. Some were badly mangled after being dragged by raging floodwaters over rocks and other debris. A man sprayed insecticide on the remains to keep away swarms of flies.

A father wept when he found the body of his child after lifting a plastic cover. A mother, meanwhile, went away in tears, unable to find her missing children. "I have three children," she said repeatedly, flashing three fingers before a TV cameraman.

Two men carried the mud-caked body of an unidentified girl that was covered with coconut leaves on a makeshift stretcher made from a blanket and wooden poles.

Dionisia Requito, 43, felt lucky to have survived with her husband and their eight children after swirling floodwaters surrounded their home. She said they escaped and made their way up a hill to safety, bracing themselves against boulders and fallen trees as they climbed.

"The water rose so fast," she told The Associated Press. "It was horrible. I thought it was going to be our end."

In nearby Davao Oriental, the coastal province first struck by Typhoon Bopha as it blew from the Pacific Ocean, at least 115 people perished, mostly in three towns so battered that it was hard to find any buildings with roofs remaining, provincial officer Freddie Bendulo and other officials said.

"We had a problem where to take the evacuees. All the evacuation centers have lost their roofs," Davao Oriental Gov. Corazon Malanyaon said.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued an urgent appeal for \$4.8 million to help people directly affected by the typhoon.

The sun shined brightly for most of the day Wednesday, prompting residents to lay their soaked clothes, books and other belongings out on roadsides to dry and revealing the extent of the damage to farmland. Thousands of banana trees in one

Compostela Valley plantation were toppled by the wind, the young bananas still wrapped in blue plastic covers.

But as night fell, however, rain started pouring again over New Bataan, triggering panic among some residents who feared a repeat of the previous day's flash floods. Some carried whatever belongings they could as they hurried to nearby towns or higher ground.

After slamming into Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, Bopha roared quickly across the southern Mindanao and central regions, knocking out power in two entire provinces, triggering landslides and leaving houses and plantations damaged. More than 170,000 fled to evacuation centers.

On Thursday, the typhoon was over the South China Sea west of Palawan province. It was blowing northwestward and could be headed to Vietnam or southern China, according to government forecasters.

The deaths came despite efforts by President Benigno Aquino III's government to force residents out of high-risk communities as the typhoon approached.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Coal and gas outburst kills 17 miners in China

BEIJING (AP)—An accident in a coal mine in southwest China killed 17 miners on Wednesday, while 11 workers were still missing three days after another mine flooded in the northeast, state media reported. The official Xinhua News Agency said there was an outburst of coal and gas in a shaft in a mine in Fuyuan county in Yunnan province on Wednesday afternoon. Citing the county government, Xinhua said the other 49 miners underground at the time escaped unharmed.

World's tallest woman dies in China at age 39

BEIJING (AP)—The world's tallest woman has died in eastern China. She was 39. Chinese state media say Yao Defen died on Nov. 13 at her home in China's eastern province of Anhui. Guinness World Records in January 2010 had certified her as the world's tallest living woman at 7 feet and 7 inches (233.3 centimeters). The local Xin'an Evening News did not give the cause of death but said in a report that Yao suffered from gigantism, with a tumor on her pituitary gland disrupting her levels of growth hormone. A government official in her county who gave only his surname, Liu, confirmed Yao's death on Wednesday.

LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897 • E-Mail: cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 13, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

1. **Preliminary Matters**
 - A. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - B. Introductions
 - C. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Govt. Act, CMC § 9901 et seq.)
 - D. Final Approval of July 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes
2. **Executive Director's Report**
 - A. 2012 Products
 - B. Law Enforcement Officer Manual
 - C. FY '13 Budget
 - D. Sale Items
 - E. Sales Report
3. **Old Business**
 - A. By-laws
 - B. Non-revenue Items
 - C. Coordination re: Commonwealth Register
 - D. Website Development
 - E. Status of Researching CNMI law
 - F. Draft Legislation
4. **New Business**
 - A. Strategic Plan
 - B. Personnel Matters
 - C. Professional Development
5. **Other Business**
 - A. Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment

World

Israel, Palestinians escalate settlement showdown

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinians and Israelis hardened their positions Wednesday over a contentious new settlement push around Jerusalem, with Israel going full throttle on plans to develop the area and the Palestinians trying to block it through an appeal to the U.N. Security Council. The settlement push—Israel's retaliation for the Palestinians' success in winning U.N. recognition of a de facto state—has touched off an escalating international showdown.

Palestinians claim the construction would deal a death blow to Mideast peace hopes. Even Israel's staunchest allies have been outraged by the move, feeding speculation they might squeeze Israel more than usual to back down on its construction plans. The U.N. move came last week, with the General Assembly recognizing a Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip—territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel, which rejects a return to its

1967 lines, says borders with a future Palestine should be resolved through negotiations.

Although the Israelis say construction could be years away, the settlement plans have sent a message that within these U.N.-recognized borders, Israel remains in firm control. The plans include 3,000 new settler homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and intentions to press ahead with two other projects that would drive a wedge between east Jerusalem, the Pal-

estinians' desired capital, and its West Bank hinterland.

International condemnation was harsher than usual, with some of Israel's closest European allies, including Italy and the European Union on Wednesday, calling in Israeli ambassadors for rebukes or issuing especially stern criticism. The issue was expected to be high on Germany's agenda during a visit to Berlin by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Ahead of his arrival, Israel

showed no signs of bending, holding a preliminary planning meeting for a new development in a section of the West Bank outside Jerusalem. The project, known under its Israeli administrative term "E-1," is the most contentious of the new settlement projects because of its strategic location.

The Palestinians said they would leverage their newfound U.N. status to seek a Security Council resolution to halt the Jerusalem-area plans. Palestinian President Mah-

moud Abbas said he was determined to block the settlement building near Jerusalem with all legal and diplomatic means.

"The settlement plans that Israel announced, especially E-1, are a red line," Abbas told reporters. "This must not happen."

The Palestinian representative to the United Nations said in letters to the council, the General Assembly and the secretary-general that the intensification of the Israeli campaign is clearly part of "Israel's contemptuous response" to the assembly's overwhelming vote last week to recognize the state of Palestine.

Overnight clashes in Cairo kill 3, crisis worsens

CAIRO (AP)—Overnight clashes in Cairo between supporters and opponents of Egypt's Islamist leader killed at least three people, the Interior Ministry said Thursday, as the nation further descended into political turmoil over the constitution drafted by President Mohammed Morsi's allies.

The street battles outside the presidential palace in the city's Heliopolis district were the worst violence since Egypt's latest political turmoil erupted on

Nov. 22, when Morsi assumed near absolute powers.

It was also the first time supporters of rival camps have fought each other since last year's uprising that toppled authoritarian ruler Hosni Mubarak.

A statement from the ministry early Thursday said there were also 276 people injured in the clashes, including 35 policemen, as angry mobs battled each other with firebombs, rocks and sticks outside the

presidential complex.

The fighting erupted late Wednesday afternoon when thousands of Morsi's Islamist supporters descended on an area near the presidential palace where some 300 of his opponents were staging a sit-in. The Islamists, members of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, chased the protesters away from their base outside the palace's main gate and tore down their tents.

After a brief lull, hundreds of Morsi opponents arrived and

began throwing firebombs at the president's backers, who responded with rocks. The clashes continued well after nightfall and spread from the immediate vicinity of the palace to residential streets nearby.

The deployment of hundreds of riot police did not stop the fighting. The police later fired tear gas to disperse Morsi's opponents. Volunteers ferried the wounded on motorcycles to waiting ambulances, which rushed them to hospitals.

Guatemalan police arrest software guru McAfee

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Software company founder John McAfee was arrested by police in Guatemala on Wednesday for entering the country illegally, hours after he said he would seek asylum in the Central American country.

The anti-virus guru was detained at a hotel in an upscale Guatemala City neighborhood with the help of Interpol agents and taken to an old, three-story building used to house migrants who enter the country illegally,

said Interior Minister Mauricio Lopez Bonilla.

It was the latest twist in a bizarre tale that has seen McAfee refuse to turn himself in to authorities in Belize, where he is a person of interest in the killing of a neighbor, then go on the lam, updating his progress on a blog and claiming to be hiding in plain sight, before secretly crossing the border into Guatemala.

Earlier Wednesday, McAfee said he had formally requested

asylum in Guatemala after entering the country from Belize, where he says he fears for his safety because he has sensitive information about official corruption and refused to donate to local politicians.

"Yes, we are presenting this, and I want it to be clear, because of the persecution, not because of the murder," he told the AP about his asylum bid.

Police in Belize deny they are persecuting McAfee and say there is no warrant for his arrest.

The country's prime minister has even questioned McAfee's mental state. Since there are no restrictions on his travels, it's unclear why McAfee would need any special status in order to stay in Guatemala.

The 67-year-old went on the run last month after officials tried to question him about the killing of Gregory Viant Faull, who was shot to death in early November on the Belize island where both men lived.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-011

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, 1 CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0322 vs. 11-0322 NOTICE OF SALE HILBERT HENRY C. SAN NICOLAS, Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 5, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on the DLS Check No. 008 T 03, dated March 31, 1999, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 99-848, dated March 31, 1999, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 14, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of October, 2012.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Antonio C. Angui
Francisca T. Angui
P.O. Box 7976 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 288-1350

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE CUSTOMARY 1 FCD-AD ADOPTION OF 1 CIVIL ACTION MARGARET A.C. 1 NO. TEIGITA and 12 0230 HILARIO ANGUI.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for an evidentiary hearing on December 17, 2012 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 217A, before the Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

All Parties having any interest in this proceeding should appear.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2012.

Patrick V. Diaz
Acting Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertisement of Rental Units

This is to inform all property owners and landlords registered with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) of an opportunity to advertise rental units at our offices to applicants/participants under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Approved units to be advertised will be posted in the lobby of our offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. For further information, please visit our offices and pick up an information packet from the receptionist.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

 NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO ALL SECTION 8 HCV APPLICANTS

(November 19, 2012)

Every six months, as needed, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is required to obtain current information interested Section 8 applicants and to remove applicants who are no longer interested in participating in the program or who fail to respond to a written request to update the information on their applications.

For this reason, and in accordance with Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of NMHC's Revised Administrative Plan (2007), this is to respectfully inform all Section 8 housing choice voucher program applicants that written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and required to contact NMHC at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 2349447 or via email at housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to Kimo Rosario or Bryan Bocago at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at any of the aforementioned telephone numbers or via email at pfdmanager@nmhc.gov.net and bsbocago@nmhc.gov.mp, respectively.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"



SECRET SANTA

AP
A woman receives a \$100 dollar bill from a wealthy philanthropist from Kansas City, Mo., known as Secret Santa. Secret Santa distributes \$100 dollar bills to needy people at St. Joseph's Social Service Center and other locations in Elizabeth, N.J., Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

Off The Wall

Harvard recognizes group promoting safe kinky sex

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Kinky sex has been admitted to Harvard.

The nation's oldest university has formally recognized Harvard College Munch, a group promoting discussions and safe practices of kinky and alternative sex. The school has no record of a similar group being recognized in its 376-year history.

The Committee on Student Life recognized Munch on Friday, making it one of 400 independent student organizations on campus. The decision occurred more than a year after members began meeting informally over meals.

"Applications for recognition are decided by a student-faculty committee following the review of a committee composed of students and administrators," Harvard spokesman Jeff Neal said in a statement Tuesday. "The college does not endorse the views or activities of any independent student organization."

Harvard is not the first school

in the country to formally recognize kinky sex groups, and several active groups exist within the larger community in Cambridge and neighboring Boston.

Organizers of Harvard College Munch did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on a Harvard website, organizers say the group is for students interested in kink and alternative sexualities to meet and organize relevant events including speakers, discussions and screenings. Munch also has created a safety team to enable victims of abuse or trauma get help.

"It exists to promote a posi-

tive and accurate understanding of alternative sexualities and kink on campus, as well as to create a space where college-age adults may reach out to their peers and feel accepted in their own sexuality," the statement said.

"Though existing campus groups range from representing women and men, queer sexualities and orientations, all the way to groups dedicated to abstinence, no other group exists as a forum for students interested in alternative sexualities to explore their identities and develop a community with their peers," organizers said.

The group started with seven people and now has about 30

members. The statement didn't identify any of the members.

The Harvard Crimson school newspaper quotes one founder, identified only as Michael, as saying that recognition "comes with the fact of legitimacy" and shows members are being taken seriously. There are also practical benefits to formal recognition, including the ability to apply for grants, post notices and secure convenient time and locations for meetings, the founder said.

The Crimson reported that the group's efforts to gain official recognition last spring were foiled by trouble finding an adviser and problems with its constitution.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Maine police: Man says prostitute owes 10 minutes

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, Maine (AP)—Police in Maine say a man called them to complain a prostitute hadn't given him his money's worth—so they arrested him. Police say New Hampshire resident Scott Pipher was arrested this week. The 34-year-old is charged with engaging a prostitute. New Hampshire's The Portsmouth Herald newspaper reported Wednesday the police investigation started in the spring. Old Orchard Beach, Maine, police say Pipher called them March 25 to complain a woman he'd hired "shorted him by 10 minutes." Police say their investigation also led to the arrests of two women believed to be prostitutes contacted by Pipher through a website.

Woman thanks NY cop with \$1K, but he can't keep it

GUILDFORD, N.Y. (AP)—New York State Police are trying to find the woman who handed an on-duty trooper a holiday card with \$1,000 cash inside. Under New York law, members of the state police can't accept such gifts. So state police officials are seeking the public's help in finding the woman who gave the money to Trooper Christopher Maniscalco in the Albany suburb of Guilderland on Sunday. They say they want the woman to tell them where she would like the donation to go. Police say the woman told Maniscalco she had seen him doing a good job and wanted to say Merry Christmas and thank you. Officials say it wasn't until after his shift ended that the trooper opened the card and saw the money.

Residents put ribbon on burned-out Pa. house

PENN HILLS, Pa. (AP)—Some residents of a Pittsburgh suburb have gift-wrapped something they hope will be gone by Christmas: a charred and abandoned house that burned nine months ago. Amy Davis tells WPXI-TV that residents put a big red bow on the house next door to hers, so Penn Hills officials will get moving on tearing it down. The house burned in March. Residents say it's unsafe and an eyesore, and that they fear it could harm their property values. Davis says gift-wrapping the house "was done in jest to bring light to a situation where there's no humor at all." She says the fire frightened her and caused \$8,000 worth of damage to her 100-year-old home. Municipal code enforcement officer John McCafferty tells the TV station he just got approval to tear down the home.

Man jailed for naked stunt on London statue

LONDON (AP)—A man who

climbed naked onto an equestrian statue in London's government district, ripped off its sword and bit it has been sentenced to 12 weeks in jail. Dan Motrescu brought central London traffic to a standstill when he mounted the bronze statue of the 19th-century Duke of Cambridge on Nov. 23. Police cordoned off Whitehall, a street that is home to several government departments, as Motrescu climbed up and down the statue, at one point balancing himself on the duke's head. It took several hours for officers to talk him down. Motrescu, a Ukrainian citizen of no fixed address, was convicted Tuesday of possession of an offensive weapon, criminal damage and a public order

offense. A magistrate at Westminster Magistrates' Court sentenced him to 12 weeks in jail.

Deer get onto racetrack, announcer plays along

WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP)—Spectators who came to watch horses at a western Pennsylvania racetrack got a surprise this week when three deer got onto the course first and beat the horses to racing. According to KDKA-TV, a race was about to begin Wednesday night at the Meadows Racetrack in Washington County when the deer jumped onto the track. Race announcer Roger Huston didn't miss a beat. He began calling the race as it unfolded, saying things like: "As they race down the track, Bambi has the lead. Here comes Rudolph from the outside." The deer ran fast but kept changing directions. At one point, they appeared headed to the paddock, where the horses were being held. Several minutes into the show, the deer decided to leave the track to the horses. Huston says Bambi won the race.

Skiing Santas hit the slopes in Maine

NEWRY, Maine (AP)—A bunch of Santas have hit the slopes at a Maine ski resort. Nearly 300 skiers and snowboarders decked out in red and white were gathering at the Sunday River resort for the annual "Santa Sunday" event. Spokeswoman Darcy Morse says 292 of them pre-registered. The 13th annual event raises money for the Bethel Rotary Club's annual holiday toy drive. Those who participated showed up in a Santa outfit and donated \$10 or more to the toy drive. Participants got to ski free for the day and receiving another lift ticket good through Dec. 14.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMHC RFP 2012-008

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

To Conduct a Performance Assessment of NMHC Fiscal and Accounting Division by a CNMI Licensed Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) Firm

The Corporate Director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals from CNMI licensed CPA firms to conduct a performance assessment of NMHC's fiscal and accounting division. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-210).

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on **Monday, December 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Friday, December 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**, local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled **"NMHC RFP 2012-008"** for Performance Assessment of NMHC's Fiscal and Accounting Division to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., Monday, January 7, 2013**.

The guidelines and specifications for this assessment may be picked up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI Holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone numbers (670) 234-6866/7689, fax 234-9021 or email jskaiap@nmhgov.net.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Admin Fees for the Section 8 Multifamily, Housing Choice Voucher, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director
Procurement & Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Science & Technology

Putting gamers on the spot with virtual-reality goggles

By IAN HAMILTON
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Strap on the headset and adjust the goggle to your eyes. Look down and you'll see the floor of a space station. Look up and pipes weave above your head. Turn left or right and the tight walls of a dark corridor flank

your sides. An alien bursts through a door. Look at the monster, pull the trigger and mow it down.

Palmer Luckey cobbled the headset together from spare smartphone parts. His partner Brendan Iribe is rallying the videogame industry to build the games. The result is a relatively

affordable, next-generation headset that eventually will allow players to disappear into virtual worlds.

Virtual reality experiences have been the stuff of dreams for decades, with movies such as "The Lawnmower Man," "The Matrix" and the holodeck on "Star Trek: The Next Gen-

25 top-rated Facebook games from 2012

Games can be both a welcome and an annoying diversion on Facebook, the world's most popular online social network. This year, Facebook crossed a big milestone—reaching 1 billion active users. Game companies such as "FarmVille" creator Zynga Inc. and Rovio Entertainment Ltd. of "Angry Birds" fame seek to tap into that vast base of users to gain more players for their games.

This week, Facebook Inc. issued a list of the 25 top-rated games that launched on Facebook in 2012. The company says the rankings are based on user ratings and engagement with the games. It's the same methodology that Facebook uses to rank apps in its App Center.

Some of the games are played on Facebook's website, while others are only on Apple Inc.'s iOS or Google Inc.'s Android devices using Facebook's app.

Here's the list:

1. "SongPop" (by Fresh-Planet, on Facebook.com, iOS and Android)
2. "Dragon City" (by Social Point, on Facebook.com)
3. "Bike Race" (by Top Free Games, on iOS)
4. "Subway Surfers" (by Kii-loo, on iOS and Android)
5. "Angry Birds Friends" (by Rovio, on Facebook.com)
6. "FarmVille 2" (by Zynga, on Facebook.com)
7. "Scramble with Friends" (by Zynga, on iOS)
8. "Clash of Clans" (by Supercell, on iOS)
9. "Marvel: Avengers Alliance" (by Playdom, on Facebook.com)
10. "Draw Something" (by Zynga, on iOS and Android)
11. "Hay Day" (by Supercell, on iOS)
12. "Baseball Heroes" (by Syntasia, on Facebook.com)
13. "ChefVille" (by Zynga, on Facebook.com)
14. "CSR Racing" (by NaturalMotion Games, on iOS)
15. "Candy Crush Saga" (by King.com, on Facebook.com and iOS)
16. "Matching With Friends" (by Zynga, on Facebook.com)
17. "Legend Online" (by Oasis Games, on Facebook.com)
18. "Jurassic Park Builder" (by Ludia, on Facebook.com)
19. "Dungeon Rampage" (by Rebel Entertainment, on Facebook.com)
20. "Pockie Ninja II Social" (by NGames Ltd., on Facebook.com)
21. "Jetpack Joyride" (by Halfbrick, on Facebook.com)
22. "Social Empires" (by Social Point, on Facebook.com and iOS)
23. "Bil ve Fethet" (by Peak Games, on Facebook.com)
24. "Ruby Blast Adventures" (by Zynga, on Facebook.com and iOS)
25. "Pyramid Solitaire Saga" (by King.com, on Facebook.com) (AP)

With spam, it's better not to give or receive

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Recently I've been unable to send emails from my home email address. In addition, my incoming email contains several notices of undeliverable emails that I didn't send that are addressed to people I don't know. I suspect that my computer is infected by some malicious software and is being used to send spam email—and that those that are undeliverable are being returned. What should I do?—Joseph Campbell, Burnsville, Minn.



ANSWER: I agree that your PC has been taken over by hackers and is being used to send spam.

The fact that you aren't able to send emails from your home account supports this theory, since it indicates that your Internet service provider believes you are spamming and has temporarily blocked your ability to send email to anyone.

I suggest you download and run the free version of security program Malwarebytes

Q: I've recently received a lot of spam, including some that appears to be from people that I know—except that the messages come from the wrong email address. How does a spammer use a familiar name with a fake email address and send it to me?

A: Also, is there a way to find out the identity of the people who send spam emails? I've read that the email address of the sender is not always accurate.—Ginger Bramlett, Rockwall, Texas

A: The bogus email that appeared to be from your friend, but came from the wrong email address, is from a spammer who

is trying to trick you into opening the email.

Why did this happen? Your friend's email may have been hacked and his or her address book stolen, providing the spammer with a host of addresses where an email bearing your friend's name might be opened by the recipient.

It's hard to find out who actually sent spam, because originating email addresses are easy to fake.

I suggest you send these emails to your spam filter so that you and others may be spared at least some spam in the future. In addition, your Internet service provider allows you to block spam that comes from a specific domain name—the part of the email address that follows the @ symbol, such as Yahoo.com. See <http://www.tinyurl.com/cxmq4m7>.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



MCT
Oculus virtual reality founder Palmer Luckey, 20, right, is the inventor of a VR gaming headset that aims to be the next generation video game console.

eration" popularizing the idea. So far, though, systems to take people to other worlds are expensive and built only for niche uses, such as military training.

Luckey and Iribe, the founders of Irvine, Calif.-based Oculus VR, have raised \$2.4 million through online crowd funding to build a system that offers a

virtual-reality experience to at-home gamers.

"It's the future," Luckey said. "It's the matrix."

The task facing anyone working on a virtual-reality experience is two-fold—create a device inexpensive enough so people will buy it and improve upon the current

state of gaming.

"If there's not something additive or functionally better, it's not going to catch on," said Jesse Divnich, vice president in charge of analysis at video-game research firm EEDAR. "It has to do a better job than the market standard that existed before."

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

*Juliana Blas
Reyes Lizama
"Tempo"*

Invite all our family and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of my beloved wife, our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.



Daily Mass is offered at San Vicente Church

December 6th, Thursday at 6:00pm
December 7th, Friday at 6:00pm
December 8th, Saturday at 9:00am
December 9th, Sunday at 6:00am
December 10th – 13th, Monday through Thursday at 6:00pm
December 14th, Friday at 6:00am

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu's Ma'ase

Mariano Crisostimo Lizama, Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

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Playing for Keeps

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday			7:20

Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday		7:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Life of Pi 3D

Friday	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		7:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25

Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday	4:05
Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday	4:30
Saturday	4:30
Sunday	4:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Flight

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R



Skyfall

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Grammys spread the love with six top nominees

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—The Grammy Awards celebrated the diversity of music as six different artists tied for top nominee—Kanye West, Jay-Z, Frank Ocean, Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys, Mumford & Sons and fun.

Auerbach received five nominations as a member of the Keys and also is up for producer of the year, earning a spot with the others at the top of the list as the Grammy's primetime television special came to his hometown Wednesday night.

The rockers little resemble any of the other acts at the top of the list. The top nominations for Jay-Z and West, two of hip-hop's most important figures, is a familiar refrain; each has routinely been at or near the top of the nominations list for the last several years.

Indie pop band fun., a featured performer during the show, aired live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on CBS, rode the success of its anthemic hit "We Are Young," featuring Janelle Monae, to sweep of the major categories, earning nods for best new artist, song and record for "We Are Young" and album of the year for "Some Nights." The



In this Sept. 29, 2012 file photo, guitarist Dan Auerbach, center, and drummer Patrick Carney of The Black Keys perform at the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park, in New York.

band's producer Jeff Bhasker is up for four nominations.

"When you call your band fun. with a period at the end of the sentence, you set a very high standard for yourself and for fun itself," Taylor Swift, the concert's co-host, said in introducing them. "Fortunately this band from New York has lived up to the name in the best possible way."

R&B singer Ocean made a

bold social statement earlier this year when he noted he had a same-sex relationship in the liner notes of his new album "channel ORANGE," and The Recording Academy rewarded him with the major nominations best new artist, record for "Thinkin Bout You" and album of the year.

And British folk-rock band Mumford & Sons, which made

an auspicious debut in front of an international audience during the 2011 Grammys, is up for album of the year for "Babel," one of 2012's best-selling releases.

Miguel, who helped Ocean shake up the R&B world this year, and jazz great Chick Corea join the Keys with five nominations apiece. Nas and recording engineer Bob Ludwig join Bhasker at four apiece.

Aussies sorry for crank call to Kate's hospital

LONDON (AP)—Two Australian radio disc jockeys apologized Wednesday after impersonating Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles in a prank call and getting a London hospital to tell them all about Kate Middleton's condition.

The King Edward VII hospital in London acknowledged that the Australian radio station made the hoax call to the hospital in the early hours Tuesday—and that the hospital fell for it.

The 30-year-old Duchess of Cambridge is pregnant and is being treated at the hospital for severe morning sickness.

A woman using the often-

mimicked voice of Britain's monarch asked after the duchess' health—and was told by a nurse that Kate "hasn't had any retching with me and she's been sleeping on and off."

"She's sleeping at the moment and she has had an uneventful night. She's been given some fluids. She's stable at the moment," the kindly nurse informed the supposed queen and prince on the station's recording. A dog yaps in the background while the alleged queen and prince talk about traveling to the hospital to check in on the patient.

"I would suggest that any time after 9 o'clock will be suitable to

visit," the nurse said. "We'll be getting her freshened up."

The duchess is married to the queen's grandson, Prince William.

The hospital says the call had been transferred to the ward and the conversation was held with one of its nursing staff. Its telephone protocols are now being reviewed, the hospital said in a statement.

The Australian station 2Day-FM placed the recording of the conversation on its website.

Australian radio personalities Mel Greig and Michael Christian later apologized for the hoax—along with their station.

"We were very surprised that our call was put through. We thought we'd be hung up on as soon as they heard our terrible accents," they said in a joint statement.

The duchess is spending her third day in the hospital. William visited his wife at the hospital on Wednesday, while media from around the world camped outside, seeking any news on the royal pregnancy.

Officials from St. James's Palace have said the duchess is not yet 12 weeks pregnant with the couple's first child.

Julie Andrews enjoys rediscovering her new voice

NEW YORK (AP)—It may take a big spoonful of sugar to make this go down: Julie Andrews says that her four-octave voice is not coming back.

The Oscar and Tony Award-winning actress said in a recent interview that a botched operation to remove non-cancerous throat nodules in 1997 hasn't gotten better. It has permanently limited her range and her ability to hold notes.

"The operation that I had left me without a voice and without a certain piece of my vocal chords," said Andrews, who starred in such quintessential stage and film musicals as "The Sound of Music," "My Fair

Lady" and "Mary Poppins."

The actress says she can still speak "pretty well" and can still hit a few bass notes, "So if you wanted a rendition of 'Old Man River' you might get it, but I'm not singing as much these days."

Andrews has sung publicly several times since then including a performance in the 2004 film "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement" and in a 2010 London concert, but called those "speak-singing."

The 77-year old, however, says she has rediscovered her

voice in her books and in directing theater.

Her latest children's book, "Little Bo in London: The Ultimate Adventure of Bonnie Boadicea" has just been released by Harper Collins. It's the fourth and final book in the series about a possibly magical ship's cat that travels

the world with the man who rescued her. It's the 27th book she's co-written with her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton.

She's also directing a musical theater adaptation of another of her books, "The Great Ameri-



Andrews

can Mousical." The show, about a troop of acting mice living beneath the floors of a famous Broadway theater, is being performed at the Goodspeed Theatre in Connecticut through Sunday. Andrews thinks it "would do very well on Broadway," where she says she would like to direct and produce.

Andrews says in a strange way that she feels fortunate that she no longer can sing because it pushed her to find a "different way" of using her voice. Paraphrasing a line from her "Sound of Music" character Maria von Trapp, Andrews noted that "When one door closes another window opens."

Winfrey picks Mathis' debut novel for book club

NEW YORK (AP)—Add another book for possible holiday gifts: Oprah Winfrey's latest 2.0 selection.

Winfrey announced Wednesday that she has chosen Ayana Mathis' debut novel, "The Twelve Tribes of Hattie," for her book club. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf moved up publication from early next year

to this week, and an author interview will be aired Feb. 3 on the "Super Soul Sunday" program on Winfrey's OWN network.

"Twelve Tribes" is the story of a teenager's journey from Mississippi to Philadelphia in the 1920s and the large family she ends up raising.

"The opening pages of Ayana's

debut took my breath away," Winfrey said in a statement. "I can't remember when I read anything that moved me in quite this way, besides the work of Toni Morrison."

Winfrey revived her club, now called Oprah's Book Club 2.0, this year with Cheryl Strayed's memoir "Wild." Winfrey's clout, along with her ratings, might

have dropped from a decade ago, but she is still a major commercial force in the book world. Also published by Knopf, "Wild" has sold around 500,000 copies, most of that coming after Winfrey's announcement. Dozens of books over the past 20 years have become best-sellers, thanks to the talk-show host's endorsements.

Raphael drawing fetches \$47.8M in auction



AP
The Nefertiti bust is pictured during a press preview of the exhibition 'In The Light Of Amarna' at the Neues Museum (New Museum) in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012.

Berlin marks centenary of Nefertiti bust's find

BERLIN (AP)—A famed bust of Egypt's Queen Nefertiti is getting some new company to mark the centenary of its discovery: an exhibition of works giving a taste of the site where it was found.

The show, "In the Light of Amarna—100 Years of the Nefertiti Discovery," opens at Berlin's Neues Museum on Thursday—a century to the day after a German excavator unearthed the 3,300-year-old limestone bust of the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten in southern Egypt.

Nefertiti is the centerpiece of the show of some 600 objects—many held in the Berlin museum's stores over the decades.

They range from a bust of Akhenaten himself, through fragments from the workshop where Nefertiti was found, to remains of ancient Egyptian homes.

The exhibition runs until April 13.



AP
A Sotheby's employee adjusts a drawing by Raffaello Sanzio, otherwise known as Raphael called 'Head of an Apostle', a Renaissance masterwork, during a press viewing in London, Friday, Nov. 30, 2012.

Reese Witherspoon honored by March of Dimes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—New mom Reese Witherspoon is being honored by March of Dimes for being a model celebrity parent.

The 36-year-old Oscar winner and mother of three will receive the organization's Grace Kelly Award at its Celebration of Babies event Friday at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The award recognizes celebrity parents committed to healthy pregnancies and families.

Witherspoon gave birth in September to a son, Tennessee, with her husband, talent agent Jim Toth. She's also mom to Ava, 13, and Deacon, 8, from her previous marriage to actor Ryan Phillippe.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rihanna will executive produce 'Styled to Rock'

NEW YORK (AP)—Pop star Rihanna is getting into the TV business. The 24-year-old singer will executive produce and star in the new series, "Styled to Rock," for the Style network. Style Media made the announcement Wednesday. The 10-episode series, to air next year, will give 12 aspiring designers, chosen by Rihanna, an opportunity to style A-list stars. The weekly celeb guest will decide which designer did the best job. One contestant will be sent home, and those remaining will

"I was very lucky to have a healthy delivery and leave the hospital with a healthy full term infant, but so many families in this country do not get that experience," she said, adding that she hopes her involvement with March of Dimes calls attention to its efforts to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

Hollywood has a long history with March of Dimes, said event chair and Universal Pictures President Jimmy Horowitz. The tradition continues with this seventh an-

advance to the next week's challenge. At the end, one aspiring designer will be named the winner. Prizes are still being determined. A casting search is under way on Style's website.

Stars out in London for 'Les Mis' premiere

LONDON (AP)—Hollywood stars Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman have braved the London cold to walk the red carpet for the world premiere of "Les Misérables." Hathaway said at the premiere Wednesday that playing the role of Fantine in

annual celebrity luncheon, where star parents Susan and Robert Downey Jr., Brooke Shields and Chris Henchy, Elizabeth Banks and Max Handelman, and Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon are also expected. Cannon will serve as master of ceremonies for the private event.

The March of Dimes is also inducting new celebrity parents into its Stork Club. Members include Amanda Anka and Jason Bateman, Drew Barrymore and Will Koppelman, and Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green.



Witherspoon

the film adaptation of "Les Mis" was a dream job she would have done anything to land, describing the gig as "the sort of job you should give your paycheck back" for. The 30-year-old actress lost 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms) and cut her hair to play the role of a struggling, sickly mother forced into prostitution in 1800s Paris in the screen adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic. Joined by Jackman and other costars Russell Crowe and Amanda Seyfried, Hathaway signed autographs and met fans in central London at the event.

Family treats retired teacher like free baby-sitting service

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I never had a desire to have kids. I married a man, "Harry," who had four, and did my duty being with them on holidays, birthdays and vacations. I never enjoyed it, and I have always been honest regarding my feelings about baby-sitting.

Now that Harry's children are grown and have children of their own, they think my husband and I should give up our weekends and holidays to baby-sit their children. Harry and I have had several serious arguments about this.

I have told his kids I do not want to watch their children. Harry will tell me at the last minute that one of them is being dropped off because the father and his girlfriend are going out. When the grandchild arrives, Harry disappears because he doesn't want to be bothered.

I served my time when my stepchildren were small and have looked forward to the day I'd no longer have to share my down time with kids.

Three months ago I was "surprised" with the 7-year-old so her dad and his honey could go to Atlantic City for a great time. I told them I had a political function to attend at 1:30 the next day; they didn't return until 3:30 in the afternoon. My husband thought it was fine to go without me! I would never have done that.

I love Harry, but this is causing me major grief. Please tell me what you think about this. Oh—and did I mention they think because I was an elementary school teacher I should WANT to sit and play with their kids? It's comparing apples to oranges.

NEARING WITS' END IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NEARING WITS' END: What I think is that you are being taken advantage of, and it will continue as long as you allow it, however unwillingly. The next time Harry informs you at the last minute that a grandchild is being dropped off, grab your coat and purse and tell him you are going shopping, visiting a friend, seeing a movie or anything else that will get you out of the house. If you do, perhaps the next time his kids need a baby sitter he will suggest that they hire one.

Oh, and did I mention that when you were a teacher, you were COMPENSATED for your labor? You are being used, and I hope you draw the line before you really arrive at wits' end.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old man. Many people tell me I look much younger because I have my hair colored professionally.

I started dyeing my hair about 16 years ago because my children are much younger than those of most people my age. They wanted me to color my hair so that I didn't look like their friends' grandparents.

Now friends and new acquaintances make comments about me not having any gray hair at my age. So, what do I say? Should I tell them that I have my hair colored? Should I just laugh? Please advise.

TO DYE OR NOT TO DYE

DEAR T.D.O.N.T.D.: Many men have their hair professionally colored these days and others do it themselves at home. It is nothing to be ashamed of. You neither have to laugh nor to divulge the secret of your eternal youth. However, since you are beginning to feel self-conscious because you feel the color of your hair isn't age-appropriate, discuss it with your colorist. It may be time to let a little bit of gray come through at the temples.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



Dear Abby

Bryant becomes youngest to reach 30K points

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 29 points, making him the fifth player in NBA history to score 30,000 as the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a two-game losing streak with a 103-87 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Wednesday.

Bryant entered the game needing only 13 points to eclipse the scoring milestone and did so with a short jumper late in the first half that was perhaps the least spectacular of his baskets, which included the usual array of soaring dunks, demoralizing transition 3-pointers and turnaround, off-balance jumpers.

At 34 years old, Bryant is the youngest to reach the milestone. Wilt Chamberlain was 35 when he hit the mark, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone were each 36 and Michael Jordan was 38.

Dwight Howard added 18 points for the Lakers, who trailed by a point at halftime but seized control with a 13-0 run to open the third quarter, and the lead grew as large as 20.

Ryan Anderson scored 31 for New Orleans and Greivis Vasquez added 16 points.

Spurs 110, Bucks 99

In San Antonio, Tony Parker and Gary Neal each scored 22 points, and San Antonio had a season-high 53 rebounds in the win over Milwaukee.

Tim Duncan added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs. Tiago Splitter had 15 points, Manu Ginobili scored 11 and Matt Bonner had a season-high 12 rebounds.

Monta Ellis had 21 points and 11 assists for Milwaukee. Brandon Jennings added 14 points and Ersan Ilyasova scored all of his 17 points in the first half.

San Antonio, which went on a 36-15 run bridging the final two quarters to pull away, out-rebounded Milwaukee 53-36, including a 28-17 advantage in the second half.

Knicks 100, Bobcats 98

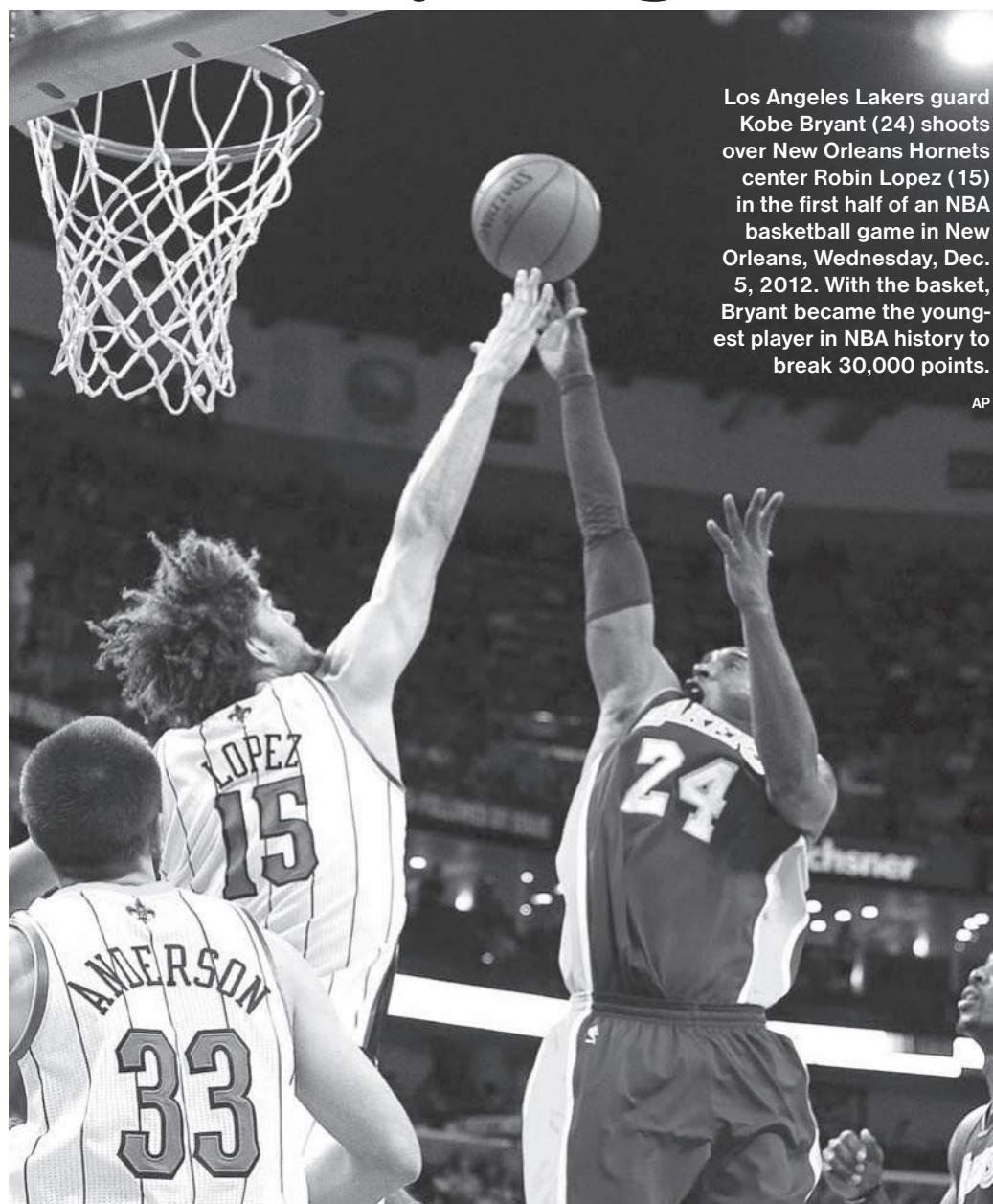
In Charlotte, North Carolina, J.R. Smith hit a fallaway jumper from the left wing as time expired to give New York a win over Charlotte.

The Bobcats appeared in position to win after a miss by Raymond Felton with 14 seconds left, but rookie Michael Kidd-Gilchrist made an ill-advised pass and Smith intercepted it.

After a timeout, Smith drove to the left side and hit an 18-footer over Kidd-Gilchrist.

Carmelo Anthony scored 20 of his 23 points in the first half for New York and Tyson Chandler had 18 points and 17 rebounds.

Kemba Walker scored 25 points for the Bobcats.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over New Orleans Hornets center Robin Lopez (15) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012. With the basket, Bryant became the youngest player in NBA history to break 30,000 points. AP

Clippers 112, Mavericks 90

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 14 points and 13 assists, propelling Los Angeles over Dallas for its fourth straight victory.

Jamal Crawford had 20 points, Caron Butler scored 16 and DeAndre Jordan 12 for the Clippers, who shot 50 percent and dominated the entire game, keeping Dallas owner Mark Cuban glued to his seat with his chin cupped in his left hand.

Reserve Vince Carter scored 16 points for Dallas. Derek Fisher added 15 points, and Shawn Marion and Chris Kaman had 14 points apiece for the Mavericks, who fell to 2-7 on the road.

Pacers 99, Trail Blazers 92

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 22 points and George Hill added 18 to help Indiana beat Portland.

David West had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers (10-9), who have won four of five and moved above .500 for the first time since a 2-1 start.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 23 points. Wesley Matthews scored 19, LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and J.J. Hickson had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Indiana outscored Portland 31-14 in the third quarter to take control. The Blazers made a push in the fourth but could get

no closer than four.

Celtics 104, Timberwolves 94

In Boston, Kevin Garnett had 18 points and 10 rebounds and remained unbeaten against his former team as Boston beat Minnesota in Rajon Rondo's return from a two-game suspension.

The Celtics improved to 10-0 against Minnesota since they acquired Garnett from the Timberwolves during the summer of 2007.

Boston went 1-1 without Rondo, suspended for his role in a scuffle during a game against the Brooklyn Nets last Wednesday. Rondo had 17 points and 11 assists, Paul Pierce scored 18, Jason Terry 17 and Brandon Bass 12 for the Celtics.

Kevin Love had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Nikola Pekovic scored 14 for the T-Wolves.

Warriors 104, Pistons 97

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Klay Thompson scored 19 of his 27 points in the third quarter to help Golden State pull away to beat Detroit.

The Warriors, starting a seven-game Eastern trip, snapped Detroit's five-game winning streak at home. Golden State has won two straight games in Detroit after losing 25 of 29.

Stephen Curry finished with 22 points and 10 assists, his fourth straight 20-10 game, while David Lee added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors.

Tayshaun Prince was the only

Pistons starter to reach double figures with 24 points. Rodney Stuckey had 17 points and fellow reserve Andre Drummond had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Hawks 108, Nuggets 104

In Atlanta, Josh Smith's steal, jam and free throw with 31 seconds remaining extended Atlanta's lead and the Hawks held on to beat Denver.

Smith had 16 points and 13 rebounds on his 27th birthday, while Al Horford led the Hawks with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Ty Lawson paced Denver with a season-high 32 points and Corey Brewer added 19.

Lawson's 3-pointer gave the Nuggets a 101-99 advantage before Horford hit a tying jumper.

Lou Williams made two free throws to put Atlanta up by two before Smith stole the ball from Lawson and completed a fast break with a dunk over Brewer, who was called for a foul.

Bulls 95, Cavaliers 85

In Cleveland, Marco Belinelli scored a season-high 23 points, Luol Deng added 22 and Chicago took control early on to beat Cleveland.

Belinelli, starting his second straight game in place of injured shooting guard Richard Hamilton, helped the Bulls bounce back from a four-point home loss to Indiana on Tuesday. They went ahead for good less than two minutes in and shot 66.7 percent in the first quarter.

The Cavaliers have lost 13 of

15 and are 2-7 since point guard Kyrie Irving broke his left index finger last month. Anderson Varejao recorded his 10th straight double-double with 11 points and 15 rebounds—his 10th straight game with at least 15 boards.

Kings 107, Raptors 100

In Sacramento, Calif., DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points and 13 rebounds to help Sacramento beat Toronto for only its third win in the last 12 games.

The Kings used strong fourth-quarter play from Cousins and Tyreke Evans to earn a rare victory. Sacramento suffered an embarrassing 35-point loss Sunday against the Clippers.

Evans, back in the starting lineup after missing the past two games with a bruised left knee, scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter. Jason Thompson added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, while

John Salmons scored 12 and Aaron Brooks 11.

Kyle Lowry scored 29 of his 34 points in the second half for the Raptors.

Jazz 87, Magic 81

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead Utah over Orlando.

Jefferson had just eight points at halftime but scored 17 in the third quarter and was the difference down the stretch as the Jazz held off a furious Orlando comeback attempt.

Orlando trailed by 14 in the first half and by 11 entering the fourth but took a 79-78 lead on Glen Davis' powerful jam.

Randy Foye's 3-pointer and back-to-back jumpers by Jefferson sealed it for Utah.

Davis led Orlando with 18 points, Jameer Nelson had 17 and Arron Afflalo added 16.

Stern: Spurs rested too many players too early

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—NBA Commissioner David Stern said Wednesday his \$250,000 fine of the San Antonio Spurs was justified because the club went beyond what league owners agreed was a reasonable approach to resting healthy players.

"(It was the Spurs') only visit to Miami, practically the first month of the season. Notifying nobody and sending home young and healthy players merited a rebuke and I did it."

Stern said the punishment had nothing to do with his feelings about Popovich but solely the actions of the Spurs, who ignored NBA rules that teams must notify the league, opposing team and media when players won't travel because of injury.

They have not appealed the fine.

"This was a team decision," Stern said. "This was not me and Pop. Pop is a great coach, Hall of Fame coach, and this decision was made by the entire senior management of the San Antonio Spurs. And I felt that they were doing what they perceived as their job and I was doing what I presume as my job and that's what happens."

"I would suggest to you if we had been notified it wouldn't have happened, so maybe from their perspective they did the right thing."

Stern was making a regularly scheduled visit with first-year Hornets owner Tom Benson, who is also the owner of the NFL's Saints, to see how Benson's plans for the NBA franchise were taking shape. Stern visited Saints headquarters, where new construction has begun on additions that will also accommodate Hornets offices and practice courts.

"Maybe it's my mistake not to think that injury and illness

Still Jets' starter, Sanchez out to prove himself



F L O R H A M
PARK, N.J. (AP)—
Mark Sanchez spent
a few days after his
miserable perfor-
mance wondering what was next.

The New York Jets quarterback had been benched, his coach tired of his mistakes, and there was no guarantee Rex Ryan would give him his job back anytime soon.

"I knew at some point before I died, I'd start at quarterback again," Sanchez said Wednesday. "I'm glad it's this week."

Ryan gathered his three quarterbacks Wednesday morning and told them he made up his mind: He's sticking with Sanchez.

For this week, at least.

Ryan weighed his options after pulling Sanchez for Greg McElroy last Sunday against Arizona, talking to many people within the organization before settling on his quarterback.

"I have to get this decision right," Ryan said, "and I believe I have."

So it will be Sanchez and not McElroy or Tim Tebow on Sunday when the Jets take on the Jaguars in Jacksonville.

"I'm pleased with coach's decision," Sanchez said. "Now it's my job to go make him right."

Sanchez was removed late in the third quarter against Arizona, and McElroy came in and led the Jets to the only touchdown of the game on his first

NFL drive, helping New York to a 7-6 victory. Sanchez was 10 of 21 for 97 and three interceptions, while McElroy was 5 of 7 for 29 yards and the score, and appeared to spark the team.

Including, the Jets hope, Sanchez.

"When I looked at everything, the biggest thing I kept coming back to is, who gives us the best opportunity to win?" Ryan said. "When I kept coming back to that, I believe the correct answer was Mark Sanchez."

It was perhaps the biggest call in Ryan's nearly four years as coach, considering the sensitivity of the situation and the possible ramifications. He acknowledged there were differing opinions among those he spoke to, but said he received no pressure from owner Woody Johnson and added that Johnson was "absolutely" OK with the decision.

"From the day Mr. Johnson hired me," Ryan said, "he said it's 100 percent my decision who plays."

Sanchez, whose confidence was shaken with Sunday's performance, gets a chance to bounce back from the first benching of his NFL career and to regain the trust of his teammates. He has struggled recently, with two touchdowns and five interceptions in his last four games.

"It was probably the worst and best experience of my life," Sanchez said. "Hopefully, you learn

from it and move on and never look back. It was definitely the worst, but it could turn around and be one of the best things that's ever happened."

He said he had never been benched, except for maybe on his fifth-grade basketball team.

"I think (Ryan) was, more or less, sending a message and it's well-received," Sanchez said. "I know, I got it."

He'll likely be on a short leash against Jacksonville - with Tebow the No. 2 if healthy, and McElroy also ready to go—but Ryan acknowledged it might not be a quick hook if he struggles. Ryan also referenced the team's color-coded system which determined how much risk Sanchez can take with each pass, saying the quarterback is now back in the "red light" area—meaning he must be extremely cautious.

"If he throws one interception, it doesn't mean he's going to get benched, necessarily."

Ryan said.

It's still uncertain if Tebow will be active against his hometown Jaguars while he recovers from two broken ribs. Despite being medically cleared by team doctors to play, Ryan chose to keep him active but not play against New England on Thanksgiving night, and then made him inactive against Arizona.

If Ryan went with McElroy, a seventh-round pick in 2011 out of Alabama, it would have been a clear indication the franchise is moving on from Sanchez.

"I'm just disappointed because I let a lot of people down," Sanchez said. "You let a lot of teammates down when you play like that. That never feels good. It just doesn't, not the way I prepare, not with the skill set I've been blessed to have."

Money might have played a role in the decision, too, with Sanchez owed \$8.25 million next year in guarantees. But

Ryan adamantly denied that factored into things.

"Absolutely zero," he said without hesitating.

Still, the Jets are likely stuck with Sanchez and his contract, so they need to see if he can rebound after the lowest point of his career.

"I believe in Mark," Ryan said.

It didn't appear Tebow was much of a factor in Ryan's decision. Ryan said all three quarterbacks would be in the mix, but didn't speculate whether he would have pulled Sanchez in favor of Tebow last Sunday if he were active.

"I'm not too worried about it," Tebow said. "Just trying to get better and trying to heal up."

Tebow was expected to have a major role in the offense, but instead has been a spare part averaging about seven offensive snaps per game. He has been listed as the No. 2 quar-

terback on the depth chart, but if the Jets turned to McElroy, it would have meant the No. 3 guy leapfrogged Tebow to start for the Jets.

McElroy said he has had a "normal" week so far, taking his usual number of snaps along with practicing with the scout team.

"You're not guaranteed anything, not at all," McElroy said. "You do your best to make the most of your opportunity and do your best to help the team."

The fact the next two games are on the road should also help Sanchez. He was booed mercilessly by the MetLife Stadium crowd last Sunday, particularly after each interception, and chants for McElroy were heard throughout the game. McElroy was cheered as he warmed up late in the third quarter, and there was growing sentiment among some fans and media that he earned a start after lifting the team.

Larkin: Drug cheats do not belong in Hall of Fame



NEW YORK
(AP)—Barry

Larkin wants
to keep baseball's most exclusive
club clean.

cheat shouldn't receive baseball's highest individual honor.

"I think if you cheated, no, you don't deserve it because I know how difficult it was for me to get there and how difficult it was for me just to compete on an everyday basis," Larkin said. "I think if you cheated I think you made a decision and I don't think you belong."

Larkin was in New York to sign items that will be auctioned off as part of Steiner Sports' 25th anniversary. All the proceeds of the online auction will go to charities that are supporting families affected by Superstorm Sandy.

The 1995 NL MVP was speaking about a month ahead of the voting results for next

year's Hall class. Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa are all up for selection for the first time.

Ultimately, Larkin thinks the players who used performance enhancers will be kept out of Cooperstown just as Pete Rose has been denied admission because he is banned for life for gambling on the sport.

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SAIPAN 234-RENT
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POI, Fiesta complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Pacific Oriental, Inc. and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan notched the last two semis tickets in the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after prevailing over separate foes last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

POI stunned Kanoa Resort in the first playoff match, 69-54, while Fiesta eliminated JP Centre in the second game, 75-62, to join top-seeded Shirley's Coffee Shop and CTSI/D&Q in the Final Four.

After posting only a win in the double-round robin regular season, POI pulled off a surprise in the playoffs, playing a solid game in the first half and surviving Kanoa's repeated rallies in the final half.

QQ Rent-A-Car caging tips off Dec. 15



Eight local basketball teams will be vying for the championship of the QQ Rent-A-Car Basketball League, which opens its third edition at the Garapan Basketball Court on Dec. 15 with a hefty cash prize of \$1,000 going to the last team standing.

Two-time reigning league champions Mobil will be returning to defend its title and will be featured in the opening act.

The other seven squads look-

Mitch Sablan scored 6 straight points for POI to close out the opening quarter and lift his team to a 21-16 advantage. POI also drew 7 points from Fernando Mejia and got contributions from three more players to take early control of its playoff game against Kanoa, which relied heavily on Leonard Sablan and Ryan Manglona. The Kanoa 1-2 punch combined for 13 of their total points in the first period with Dindo Pablo making the other 3 markers.

Other Kanoa players began to hit their shots in the second canto, but Manglona and Leonard Sablan were neutralized with the former going scoreless and the latter nailing only 4 points in that frame. While Manglona and Leonard Sablan struggled, Mitch Sablan was still on target, adding 7 more markers, while three of his teammates drilled at least 4 points each, as POI

stretched its lead to 15 at half-time, 45-30.

Facing a double-digit deficit at the break, Kanoa launched a comeback in the third canto to move within 7, but still fell short in the fourth, allowing POI to complete the upset.

POI was held to 6 points in the third canto and was outgunned by Ryan Manglona alone, as the Kanoa hotshot bounced back and fired 8 points to keep his team in the game, 44-51, with one full quarter to go.

However, POI would not be denied, as it regrouped in the fourth and more than doubled their third-quarter output in the final canto (18) to save the win and set up a semis duel with the top-seeded Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Fiesta and CTSI/D&Q will collide in the other semis pairing, as the former advanced to the next round after a jackrabbit start against JP Centre.

The defending champion scored 35 points against the 14 of JP Centre in the opening canto and never looked back with the latter opting to forfeit the match midway in the fourth after.

First Game

POI 69 – Sablan 15, Mejia 13, Tenepe 10, Indalecio 9, Esteves 6, Iglesias 6, Arago 4, Camacho 2, Pena 2.

Kanoa Resort 54 – Manglona 18, Sablan 16, Pablo 10, Ada 6, De Leon 4, Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 45-30, 51-44, 69-54.

Second Game

Fiesta 75 – Esdrelon 20, Mamoto 14, Quizon 8, Castro 8, Alonso 7, Solito 6, Villamena 5.

JP Centre 62 – J. Ong 18, Angeles 13, Moran 13, Valdez 6, Rabago 6, Caduan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 35-14, 49-32, 59-54, 75-62.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta's Johnston Aloka is nudged by JP Centre's Miko Moran, right, during their game in the regular season of the Tan Holdings caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Fiesta beat JP Centre in the playoffs to advance the semis.

3 CNMI

From Page 32

"This is a short course meet and though times will not be considered as CNMI records, Kensuke's target is to break the CNMI marks in the long course. He has a strong chance to mark faster times in the 50m and 100m breaststroke and 200m

IM," Kensuke's coach and father Hiro Kimura said.

The CNMI long course record in the 50m breaststroke reads at 31.31 seconds with Wong posting it on Aug. 18, 2011 during the 2011 Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China. Wong also owns the 100m breaststroke mark (1:07.29), which he recorded on May 30, 2012 during the 9th Oceania

Swimming Championships in New Caledonia, and the 200m IM (2:10.18), which he logged on July 27, 2011 in the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China.

Chentsova timed in at 1:19.65 in the 100m backstroke event of a long course meet last month and 2:23.01 in the 200m freestyle, and she is aiming for the best possible times in her races in Turkey.

don's goal and the match remained in standoff for about 30 minutes before Tawanpiy saved the day for Paire and foiled its foe's title bid.

Inter Godfather's 5, KFAS 4

Inter Godfather's ended its campaign in Division 1 on a winning note after edging KFAS in the second game last Sunday.

Masatoshi Otsuka connected on the winning goal with less than seven minutes remaining in the match. Ropati Tonu'u also contributed to Inter's cause, scoring a pair, while Peter Houk and Shunji Nagayasu added one each.

Houk had his goal in the 19th minute, while Tonu'u made his first for Inter's 2-0 lead two minutes later. Chong Koo Gil cut the deficit to one, 1-2, with his goal in the 22nd and after

Tonu'u's second goal in the 32nd gave Paire more distance, Jin Koo Cho kept KFAS in the game, 2-3, with a goal two minutes before the first half wrapped up.

The match remained close in the second half with Sang Ho Choi hitting the equalizer in the 47th minute. KFAS then grabbed the upper hand four minutes later, 4-3, off Sung Ho Kang's goal, and hung on to the lead for more than 10 minutes before Inter got back into its senses and nailed the last two goals for the win.

Nagayasu scored in the 66th for the second deadlock in the game, while Otsuka secured the victory 17 minutes later.

DIVISION 2 MP United 11, Kanoa Resort 0

In Division 2, MP United capped

its perfect season with a bang, whipping Kanoa Resort in the final game last Sunday.

Visiting player and Philippine National Team to Homeless World Cup coach Rudy del Rosario made his presence felt in league, firing four goals. Del Rosario, who is also a former PH National Team member, is on Saipan to conduct a two-week camp for MP United youth players.

Joining del Rosario in the scoring spree against hapless Kanoa Resort were Jason Warren (two goals), Xu Zheng, Joe Miller (two goals), and Jireh Yobech.

With its immaculate 8-0-0 card, MP United will move to Division 1 next season. Kanoa had a winless debut in the M-League to finish last in the division behind Shirley's FC (2-0-6) and Matansa (6-0-2).

tional competition.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: I would like to encourage more people to play this sport.

“Chevy Kate is one of Tan Holdings’ best players. She is not afraid of bigger and rougher opponents. She has played most of the positions on the team, becoming a strong defender, attacker, midfielder, and of course goalkeeper. Chevy is very persistent and accepts criticism and tries to make up for her mistakes by consistently practicing. She loves the game and always observes fair play. —Chevy’s coaches Cristy Villaflor and Lani Santos

year. So far, they estimate about 12 Major League teams, eight to 10 Juniors teams, and about six Senior and Big League squads.

Furthermore, the SLLBI is also offering fast-pitch girls softball this year, again if at least two teams show interest per age division, accordingly. However, so far there are no girls teams that have shown interest in participating.

Contact league president Ray Yumul at 664-8826 for more information.

YUMUL

From Page 32

base paths, as opposed to the Junior Division's current 60 feet and 90-foot distances; the new division would be implemented if at least two teams enter into the field.

League organizers are shooting for an early February start up this year and are expecting a similar overall turnout as last

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	4	.765	—
Brooklyn	11	6	.647	2
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3 1/2
Boston	10	8	.556	3 1/2
Toronto	4	15	.211	10

Southeast Division

Miami	12	4	.750	—
Atlanta	10	5	.667	1 1/2
Charlotte	7	10	.412	5 1/2
Orlando	7	11	.389	6
Washington	2	13	.133	9 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	9	8	.529	—
Indiana	10	9	.526	—
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	1
Detroit	6	14	.300	4 1/2
Cleveland	4	15	.211	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	13	3	.813	1 1/2
San Antonio	15	4	.789	—
Houston	9	6	.529	5
Dallas	8	10	.444	6 1/2
New Orleans	5	12	.294	9

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	15	4	.789	—
Utah	10	10	.500	5 1/2
Denver	9	10	.474	6
Minnesota	8	9	.471	6
Portland	8	11	.421	7

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	12	6	.667	—
Golden State	11	7	.611	1
L.A. Lakers	9	10	.474	3 1/2
Phoenix	7	12	.368	5 1/2
Sacramento	5	12	.294	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frank Guerrero tops Amigo December tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Frank Guerrero nabbed the last slot into the Amigo Golf Club's Ace of Aces Tournament after taking ace honors for the month of December at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Due to a number of festivities already planned this month,

the group held its December ace qualifier and final rounds during the last two weeks of November.

Guerrero normally struggles on COP's lengthy fairways, however he stepped up his game considerably under pressure to beat out two other contenders in the Nov. 18 qualifying round.

His 87 gross tally adjusted to a 68 net total that came out four strokes ahead of Dr. Larry Hocog

(91 gross). Third placer John Guerrero struggled on the greens and though he grossed a 90, had to settle for a dismal 79 net card.

Other net results were as follows: Sherlyn Jones (68), Diding Hocog (70), Joe Tudela (71), Manny Tenorio (72), Joe Sablan Jr. (73), Benjamin Jones Jr. (74), Frank Sablan (77), and Ben Jones Sr. (79). A total of 12 players turned out for the event.

Then in the final round last Nov. 25, John Guerrero was unable to attend, which set up a head-to-head finals duel between Frank Guerrero and Dr. Hocog, though seven other members came along for the ride.

The contenders went back and forth for all 18 holes, but in the end Guerrero managed to match Dr. Hocog stroke for stroke to maintain his four-

stroke advantage coming into the final round.

Guerrero finished with a 93 gross count that factored into a 74 net result for a combined net total of 142, while Hocog's final raw score of 93 worked into a 74 net score for a combined total of 146.

Guerrero joins January Ace Joe Sablan Jr., February's Doll Yamagishi, March's Ben Jones Sr., April's Ben Jones Jr., May's Lorraine Babauta, June's Terry Guerrero, July's Felix Sasamoto, August's Diding Hocog, September's Sherlyn Jones, October's Joe Tudela, and November's Frank Sablan for the season-ending Ace of Aces tourney.

The club's committee has confirmed the two-day Ace of Aces season finale will be held

on Dec. 15 and 16.

The first round tees off next Saturday at the Marianas Country Club with the final round scheduled at COP on Sunday; tee time is set for 10am on both days.

The combined net scores of both rounds will determine this year's Ace of Aces champion.

All players are requested to sign in at least 30 minutes prior to tee time.

In addition, the group is holding a separate club event this Sunday at COP at noon. This Sunday also marks the deadline for all members to update their outstanding dues.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, Joe Sablan Jr. at 322-1177 or Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732.

Project CLAP youth caging tips off tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 A total of 13 teams spread among three age divisions will represent the field in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's upcoming Project CLAP Youth Basketball Tournament, which is set to start at 1pm tomorrow morning at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JKPL sports coordinator Bruce Iglesias is fronting the event in accordance with his superior, John Oliver Gonzales, of JKPL; BANMI development officer Eli Rangamar; Rollers Basketball Club founder Joe Diaz; Ada Gym director Jojo Attao; the event's designated entertainment coordinator Trina Sablan of Brabu, Chamolian Cultural Village, Inc., the Let's Move Marianas program; IT&E; and Eric Atalig and Leanna Hofschneider.

The event is being put on in celebration of Project CLAP's summer youth basketball program.

Slots have already been filled for the event, which according to Iglesias, will feature the CNMI's first-ever youth division for beginner-level players, ranging from ages 6 to 10.

Notably, the idea of the 6-10 youth grouping actually originated with the RBC as Diaz has put on similar episodes as special features that played out during breaks in the action of a few of his non-profit group's past independent tournaments, earlier this year.

What makes the CLAP tourney unique, however, is that not just two, but four such developing squads will be competing on the hard wood in a tournament setting.

The participating 6-10 youth division consists of Project CLAP's Lil' Thieves

headed by Iglesias himself; a RBC Rollers squad, coached by Diaz; the Central Ballers which will be mentored by RBC's Paul Camacho and Ichnis Kapwich, and Hi-5 coached by Eric Atalig.

Additionally, an 11 to 14 age division consists of a Rollers unit, a Central Ballers crew, CLAP's West Kings and a Hi-5 squad, while the 16-and-under grouping will feature the Rollers, Central Ballers, Hi-5, the West Kings and Matson Consulting Proa group.

Over 20 games are expected to play out in total as games will run throughout the weekend.

The three champion squads will receive trophies in addition to other individual awardees. In addition, no one will be going home empty-handed as all of the players will receive give-away prizes.

Additionally, Sablan is organizing various cultural dance

numbers and perhaps even a break dance battle, as part of the entertainment. DJ Big Ken Camacho will be manning the turntables.

Dance groups of all ages from Mount Carmel School, Hopwood Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Northern Marianas College have also been invited to appear.

Project CLAP is an acronym used to represent the library's Cultural Language and Arts Program.

The youth program caters to hundreds of kids throughout the year and offers other activities such as tee-ball and cultural arts and crafts like basket weaving and ukulele classes.

Iglesias also plans on holding soccer and volleyball events in the near future.

For more information, contact Bruce Iglesias at 788-7083 or email bjiglesias@gmail.com.

Kanoa holiday caging starts Dec. 22

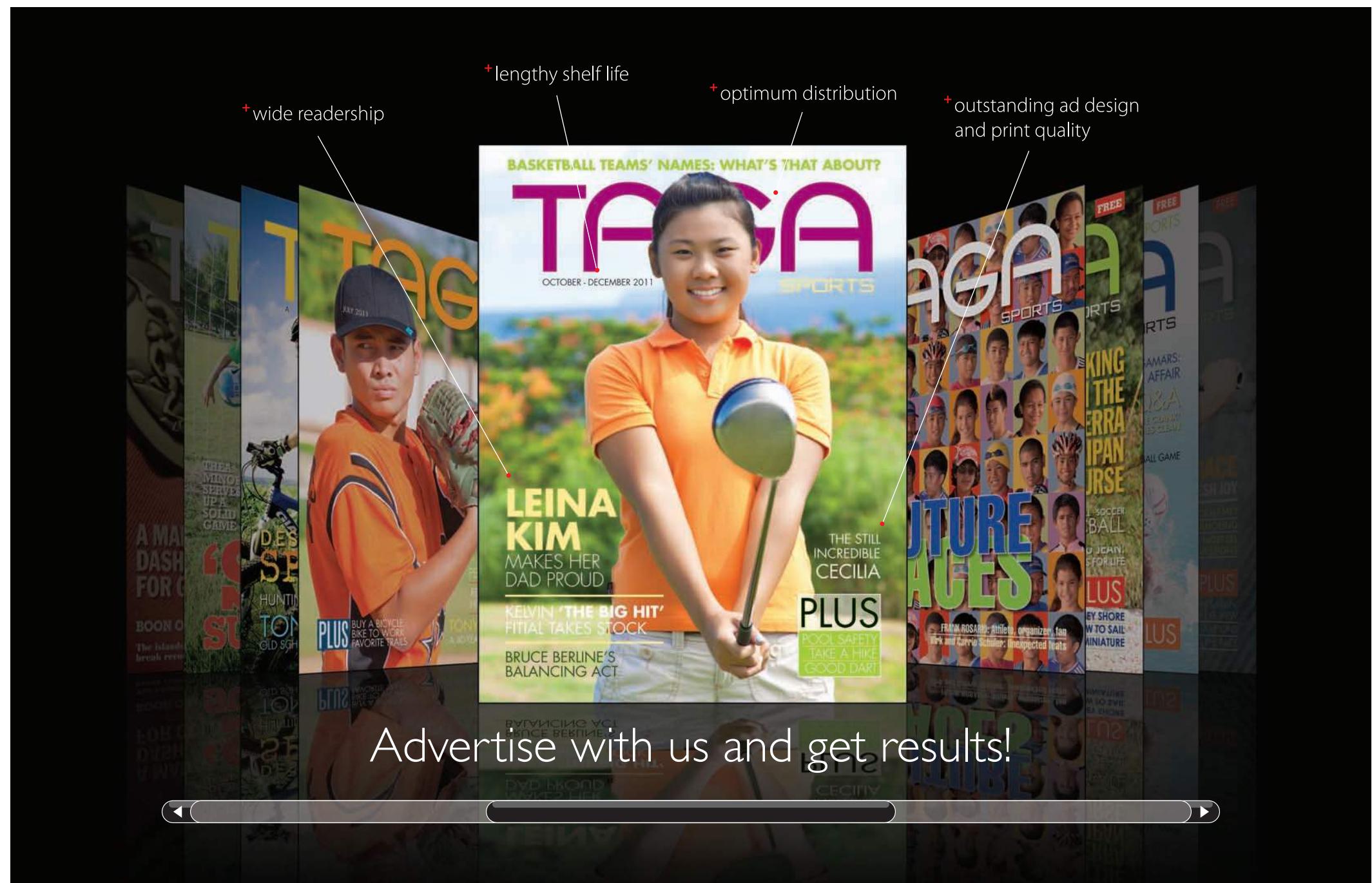
 Kanoa Resort will be hosting a women's basketball tournament this holiday season at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Dubbed the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament, the competition will run from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6. Individuals interested in joining the tournament, but have no team need not to worry, as a players draft will be implemented to complete each team's rosters. Each squad is allowed to have as much as 10 players and en-

trance fee per player is only \$10.

To be eligible for the draft, players should attend a clinic former CNMI National Team member Connie Camacho will be conducting on Dec. 15 and 16 from 1pm to 3pm. Rosters for each squad will be announced on Dec. 16. Games will be played from 1pm to 4pm and playing days will depend on the number of competing teams.

For more information, contact Irish Pagarrao at 789-8311 or send email to pagarrao11@yahoo.com. (PR)



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tan Holdings rules Division 1



Tan Holdings FC players huddle at the pitch before the start of their Division 1 game against Paire in the first round of M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

3 CNMI swimmers off to Turkey

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A lean CNMI contingent is all set for the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships, which will kick off next week in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Commonwealth delegation to the short course (25-meter pool) tournament that will run from Dec. 12 to 16 at the Sinan Erdem Arena is composed of Tsunami Saipan swimmers Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura and Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova and SSC coach and former CNMI swimmer Minerva Cabrera.

Cabrera, Kimura, and



From left, CNMI swimmers Kensuke Kimura and Victoria Chentsova and coach Minerva Cabrera pose for a group photo last Tuesday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. The group will leave for Turkey this Sunday to represent the Commonwealth in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships in Istanbul.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chentsova will be leaving Saipan this Sunday afternoon to meet Wong in Narita, Japan. Wong will be flying from Hawaii and the group will leave Japan on Monday morning and arrive in Turkey in the evening of the same day.

In Istanbul, Kensuke will be racing in the 50m breaststroke, freestyle, and butterfly events, 100m breaststroke, and the 100m and 200m individual medley. Chentsova is entered in the 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle, while Wong will be competing in the 50m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, and 100m and 200m IM.

The CNMI does not keep records in the short course, but Kimura will still try to crush the Commonwealth's marks.

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings FC clinched the Division 1 championships in the M-League. Thanks to Paire Football Club.



Tan Holdings defeated Paire in a make-up game last week, 1-0, while the latter stunned Wild Bill's in another rescheduled match, 2-1, last Sunday, leaving the former alone at the top spot of the team standings. Tan Holdings finished the double-round robin competition with a 5-2-1 record win-draw-loss record, 13 goals and 17 points, just one marker ahead of Wild Bill's, which owned a 5-1-2 slate and 23 goals—the most scored in the division.

Paire had a 2-1-5 card, tying Korean Football Association on Saipan. However, despite its spoiler role in Wild Bill's bid for the division title, Paire lost in the tiebreak and will be relegated to Division 2 next season. Inter Godfather's finished in the middle of the pack with its 3-1-4 card.

Russelle Zapanta scored the lone goal in Tan Holdings' crucial

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NMIFA YOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Name: Chevy Kate Alipio
Age Group: U12
Team: Tan Holdings FC
Position: goalkeeper
Jersey No.: #18
Years of Playing Experience: 4 years
Village: Koblerville
School: San Antonio School
Grade: 6th
Favorite Player or Team: Hope Sole

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Yumul to lead Little League in 2013

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

as umpire agent for the Juniors, Seniors, and Big League divisions.

The board held another organizational meeting last night to further discuss the opening date for the 2013 season in addition to local ground rules, entrances fees among other various administrative issues.

Representative and senator-elect Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) has been elected president of the Saipan Little League Inc. for the upcoming 2013 season following an organizational meeting last Friday. Joining Yumul in the 2013 Little League roster of officers are vice president Annie Deleon Guerrero-Flores, secretary Lyn Dueñas, treasurer Avon Tarope, managers' representative Patrick Tenorio, player agent Pedring Tenorio, and statistician Remy Celis.



In addition, in order to remain in accordance with current Little League Baseball International rules, the SLLBI is offering a new "50-70" swing-age division this year for graduating 13-year-old Major Division players that may not be ready to make the jump into the Junior League's standard mound and baseline distances.

The 50-70 league would place the mound at 50 feet from the home plate with 70-foot

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